New-York Tribune.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEWS SUMMARY.

WAR NEWS.

From Gen. Grant's Army.

A Cairo dispatch of the 6th states that Gen. Kirby Smith commands the entire Rebel force, west of the Mississippi river, with his headquarters at Camden. His forces, which consist of about 15,000 Rebels, are represented as being very active in raising and equipping the men with the object of attacking Little Rock which they felt confident they could attack in force before its garrison was reënforced. Generals Marmaduke and Price have six to seven thousand men, mostly cavalry, and were located between Arkadelphia and Little Rock. The notorious Quantrell and Capers had about 800 men each, and were encamped on Bayou Bartholomew, back of Lake Providence. Gen. Harrison is at Monroe, on Washita River, with 1,500 effective men, who were mostly from Arkansas and Louisiana, and if they failed to hold Monroe, he would disband his forces.

A dispatch from Chattanooga to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, dated Jan. 12, says that affairs in East Tennessee are exciting. A sharp cavalry fight occurred near Strawberry Plains on Sunday, Jan. 10. The enemy were repulsed with serious loss. Gen. Longstreet has been heavily reënforced from the armies of Lee and Johnston. Our picket lines front each other at Blair's Cross-Roads, 20 miles north-east of Knoxville. Our repulse at Bean's Station was very trifling. Forrest has been badly handled in West and Middle Tennessee, but has managed to escape with most of his command. Gen. Johnston maintains a bold front at Tunnel Hill and Dalton. Gen. Grant has left Knoxville, via Cumberland Gap, and is making a complete circuit of this Department. He reached Knoxville by way of Chattanooga. The army here is in good condition. The weather is fearfully cold, but there is little sickness.

A dispatch from Chattanooga says that the weather there has been stinging cold for the last three days. Two soldiers were frozen to death at Bridgeport, Ala., on the 30th ult. The soldiers are re-enlisting. The Rebel lines are 35 miles from Chattanooga.

Gen. Thomas has issued an order assessing $30,000 on Rebel sympathizers living within ten miles of the recent murder of three soldiers near Mulberry, Tenn., the money to be divided between the families of the soldiers killed.

From Gen. Meade's Army.

While our prisoners in Richmond are, by Rebel confession, wretchedly fed and clothed, and while Rebel papers there are telling the most absurd lies about our behavior to their prisoners at Point Lookout, the Government at Washington is devising means to relieve the distress of the people of Virginia, whose substance has been wasted by the tramp of Lee's and our own armies, and the incidental hazards of the war. The inhabitants of the whole country from Washington to the Rapidan, and from the Blue Ridge to the Peninsula, is to share in such supplies of food as they choose to purchase, themselves guaranteeing its transportation; and further efforts are on foot to supply those who are too poor to buy. If Mosby and Stuart do not steal the provisions sent to suffering Rebel non-combatants, the United States Government will go far beyond the line of duty and the laws of war in feeding its enemies. No oath of loyalty is required, nothing but a pledge that the bread and meat thus sold shall not go to support men actually in arms against the nation; in other words, that this source of supply shall not be open, by purchase or otherwise, to the Rebel army. Will the Copperheads—*London Times* and all—who howl so dismally about Northern barbarity, note these facts? If they do, ten to one they complain that the United States does not give away a hundred millions worth of food without pay and without question.

In pursuance of sentence by general courts-martial, Lieuts. Isaac N. Whitemeyer, 19th Indiana; [illegible] A. Dorwart, 116th Pennsylvania; Edward F. Conway, 81st New-York; John B. Hare, 7nd New-York; [illegible] Beinart, 82d New-York, have been dismissed from the service. The sentences of death for desertion in the cases of privates John Wilson, 71st Pennsylvania; James Lane, 77th New-York; James W. Clifton, 6th New-Jersey; Ira Smith, 11th New-Jersey, and Allen G. Masson, 1st Michigan, have been approved, and the executions are fixed for the 29th inst.

A dispatch from Culpepper, Va., of the 9th says that on that day the noted guerrilla McCown and three of his men were captured by the Forrester New-York Cavalry Regiment, who were reconnoitering in the direction of Sperryville.

All quiet and weather cold in the Army of the Potomac.

From Gen. Kelly's Army.

The recent attempt of General Early, with the brigades of Lee, Walker and Rosser, under the immediate command of Fitzhugh Lee, to capture the Union garrison at Petersburg and take possession of Cumberland and New-Creek, has proved a failure. A few empty wagons—thirty-five in all—of Colonel Thoburn's force, were captured by the Rebels on their route from Petersburg. General Kelly gives a brief account of the discomfiture of the enemy, in a dispatch to Governor Boreman. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is safe, and the trains are running regularly. An official document of the Rebels, laying down the plans of General Early in West Virginia, has fallen into the hands of our troops. It appears from this paper that General Early was to cut the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Martinsburg, and by a combination of movements attempt the capture of such Union forces as were between Martinsburg and New-Creek. At the latter place, General Early, having heard that we were concentrating troops at Martinsburg, and having been informed that General Averill was there with a strong cavalry force, determined to alter his plan. He therefore dispatched Generals Fitzhugh Lee and Rosser to attempt the capture of the garrison at Petersburg. Rosser was to try and get into Cumberland, and capture or destroy the stores there. They both failed, because General Early could not reënforce them with artillery and supplies. On the 10th (Sunday), Major Cole's battalion of Maryland Cavalry was attacked by 400 Rebels under Mosby. A severe fight followed, resulting in the defeat of the Rebels, who left among their dead four commissioned officers. Our loss was two killed and eleven wounded.

From Gen. Butler's Army.

We have some interesting items of news from North Carolina. The 2d Regiment of North Carolina Union Volunteers is rapidly organizing. Perry Carter, a prominent Unionist and influential citizen of Murfreesboro' was arrested a few days ago by Confederate soldiery and sent to Weldon, charged with treasonable correspondence with the public enemy. So great was the indignation excited by this new outrage upon the rights and liberties of the citizen, that Mr. Carter was immediately released and returned to his home in Murfreesboro. Mr. Carter is the father-in-law of Charles Henry Foster. While the various Rebel commands near our lines are fast being depleted by desertion, it is a remarkable fact that the 1st (loyal) North Carolina Regiment has so far lost but one man by desertion, and the 2d Regiment not one. The 1st of January was celebrated at Beaufort with imposing ceremonies by the colored people of Eastern North Carolina. The 58th Pennsylvania Volunteers have reënlisted for the war. Several batteries have also reënlisted, and it is thought that by Spring all the old regiments will be ready to take the field with full ranks. There are more than 100,000 people now within the Union lines entitled to Government protection. The people in all the State are believed to be ready for revolt against the Jeff. Davis Government. Some advocate a separate sovereignty, but many are ready to return to the Union, and are coming in freely to accept the amnesty. About 2,100 in Newbern alone have accepted the proclamation. A communication from officers of Bragg's (Johnston's) army, read in the Rebel Congress, shows an alarming state of demoralization and disaffection in that quarter. The North Carolina papers apprehend an attempt to set up Gen. Lee as Dictator, and threaten eternal resistance to any such scheme. The people of Western North Carolina have been deprived of all mail facilities on the ground of disloyalty to Jeff Davis.

From Gen. Banks's Army.

We have dates from New-Orleans to the 31st ult. A secret expedition left there on the 30th, destination thought to be toward Mobile, probably to land and fortify at Pascagoula. New-Orleans had been drowned out by heavy rain, Dec. 28, nearly the whole of the city streets a foot or two under water. Nothing especially new in war matters. From the front the report is: "Army encamped; all well." The Texas refugees were freely coming in to swear allegiance. On the 18th the bones of Captain W. W. Montgomery, of the First (Union) Texas Cavalry, a Union officer, captured and hung by the Rebels, were picked up and interred in Fort Browne, in presence of all our troops in Brownsville and a large concourse of citizens. General Dana, commanding 13th Corps, and Governor Hamilton, were present. Governor Hamilton made a thrilling speech. The loyal Texans have taken an oath of vengeance on his murderers. Recruiting is rapidly going on. Rebel sympathizers are forced to fly into Mexico. At New-Orleans a mass meeting of all the loyal people in the State of Louisiana has been called for the 8th of January. The object was to take into consideration the formation of a Free State Government. Nearly enough are enrolled to enable the State to return to the Union under the President's Proclamation. Guerrilla firing upon boats along the Mississippi had almost entirely ceased.

From Gen. Gillmore's Army.

We have dates from Charleston Harbor to the 8th. On the 7th twenty shells were thrown into the city, with what effect is unknown. More of the Rebel harbor obstructions have been washed ashore by the high tides. See letters elsewhere.

Miscellaneous.

Several regiments of veteran volunteers have recently returned from the seat of war, covered with honorable scars, and bearing their battle-stained and battered colors through our streets. The people made impromptu demonstrations at almost every step of their march, clapping their hands, and cheering them in the most enthusiastic manner. Their arrival has been duly acknowledged in the newspapers, and their deeds have been recorded in prose and verse by appreciative patriots; but their reception has not been equal to their merits. No preparations were made by the State authorities to receive them. No place had been provided for their shelter. No tables were spread for their entertainment. No State official extended to them a hand of welcome. Had they been foreigners, just landed at our wharves, or other unheralded strangers, they could not have been treated with more indifference by Governor Seymour, and yet he knew perfectly well that these brave men were coming here. He had been notified of their intentions. The press announced the fact that they were on their way. The names of the regiments, the number of men, the route they designed to take, and the time they would be due here, were told over and over again. They came here in the coldest weather we have had this Winter, tired and travel-worn, and hungry, and the only quarters offered to them were the bare boards of the Park Barracks, and even that dirty [illegible] grudged them by the Copperhead Common Council. Why are these gallant men subjected to such shabby treatment? Why have the State authorities neglected to provide for their wants? Is Gov. Seymour offended because they have re-enlisted? Are they snubbed by him because they have been fighting for Union and liberty? Are the rights of soldiers to be ignored, when they come home to aid in recruiting their wasted ranks? Is gross neglect and inhospitality to be the reward given by the State to veterans in the service? Again and again Gen. Dix has appealed to our Common Council to permit him to build barracks at Castle Garden for the accommodation of our soldiers, and they have invariably refused to accede to his request. Last Summer they voted to turn the soldiers out of the Park, and the same unpatriotic spirit seems to animate them in all their acts in relation to our Volunteers. There will be a reckoning for this treatment at no distant day.

Private advices from Charleston state that on the 29th of December, Admiral Dahlgren sent an expedition, consisting of the steamers Nipsic, Capt. Spotts, and the Mary Sanford, Capt. Rogers, with a detachment of marines and several boat howitzers, the whole under the command of Capt. Green, to Morrill's Inlet, to destroy a schooner laden with turpentine, waiting to run the blockade. The Rebels have a fire-gun battery and a battalion of infantry and cavalry at the inlet. The expedition was forced to take refuge in Georgetown entrance on account of severe weather. On New-Year's day the Nipsic ran up to the inlet, opened a heavy fire on the Rebel battery, and landed the marines and howitzers under cover of the fire. The 12-pound howitzer was got into position, and succeeded in setting fire to the schooner and also to a large quantity of cotton. The marines, advancing under cover of the fire of the howitzer and the Nipsic, encountered the enemy's cavalry, but as the object of the expedition, the destruction of the schooner, was accomplished, they were ordered back to the steamer, which they reached without loss. There has been considerable trade in the vicinity of Morrill's Inlet, which the small blockade runners have tried to keep, with but poor success. Some time since a boat's crew from the Perry were captured on shore, and one of the crew, a free negro from Maine, was hung upon the spot. The Admiral proposes to retaliate for this outrage. Deserters say that the Rebel army on the seacoast depend upon Florida for their supply of cattle since the communications with Texas have been interrupted. Other deserters from Bragg's army, who have made their way to the seacoast, say the Rebels have large founderies at Atlanta, Ga., where cannon are cast. They use charcoal for melting, as coke cannot be had. The powder mills at Augusta make 8,400 pounds of powder per day.

A letter from Memphis to *The St. Louis Republican* (which the editor says comes from a well-informed source) states that a proposition, duly authorized from Richmond, has been made to the Union Government to sell to that Government all the cotton (about 15,000 bales) within a certain district outside of the Union lines, taking greenbacks in pay; also, that Kirby Smith has sent an authorized messenger to Washington to deliver up for greenbacks all the cotton in the Red River region now under Rebel control, the money to be paid to officers excepted from the President's amnesty, the said officers to leave the country. *The Republican* says that these propositions involve the disbanding of all the Rebel forces west of the Mississippi, and the consequent speedy restoration of that region to loyalty.

The Republican's Memphis correspondence says that two important propositions have recently been made by the Rebel authorities to the Federal Government. The first is from a Quartermaster of the Rebel army at Hernando, acting by authority of Richmond officials. He has offered to sell to Gen. Hurlbut, or to the United States Government, all the cotton now remaining within a certain district yet outside of the Union lines. This offer embraces 15,000 bales, is all Rebel Government cotton, and greenbacks will be taken for it. It is said that Gen. Hurlbut favors its purchase, and has recommended that the proposition be carried into effect. The second is stated to be from Kirby Smith, who recently sent an authorized messenger to Washington to propose to the Federal authorities to furnish every requisite authority to get out all cotton in that portion of the Red River and Washita district within Rebel control, the money for the same to be paid to that class of officers excepted from the amnesty offered by President Lincoln, they to retire from the Rebel Army and go to Mexico. *The Republican* says, editorially, of the correctness of this information: "We have no doubt of it, for it comes from sources likely to have the best means of information;" also, that this would involve the complete disbandment of the Rebel forces in Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and the immediate return of those States to the Union.

We have extracts from Richmond papers of the 1st and 2d inst. No passports will be granted hereafter to any man able to do military duty. The Union forces in North Carolina were believed to be maturing plans for seizing upon the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. The Rebels say that in Jackson's operations against Averill, the Union ambulance train was captured, with 200 prisoners, some arms, eight of Averill's officers, including his Adjutant-General, a Lieutenant-Colonel, Averill's horse, his servant, and a number of his maps of fifteen or twenty counties, in which nearly every house was put down. Jackson also captured a number of mules and wagons. On Dec. 23 the Yankees made a raid on Luray, and burned P. B. Borst's large tannery, the old Baptist Church, and Mr. Booton's workshop; broke open all the stores and robbed them of all their goods, and what they could not take they distributed among the negroes. They also broke open the meat houses, stole, carried away, and destroyed nearly all the pork and bacon in the place, beside killing nearly all the chickens they could find. *The Enquirer* has a savage article upon the people who are making money out of the war, intimating that their game will soon be stopped by Congress, and the whole crowd fit to bear arms be swept into the ranks. The editor says: "Our grand struggle for liberty has arrived at that point which requires the united and unselfish efforts of all, each in the sphere in which he can be most useful. A duty for every man, and every man to his duty." The papers contain no news from Charleston. Everything seems to be quiet within the Confederate lines.

Dates from Wilmington blockading squadron, Jan. 9, state that on the 3d inst. Admiral Lee of the United States gunboat Fah-Kee entered Lockwood's Folly Inlet, about 10 miles to the south of Wilmington, hoisted out his boats and examined the blockade runner Bendigo, a vessel run ashore by her captain, about a week before, to prevent her being captured by our blockaders. While making these examinations, the enemy's sharpshooters appeared and opened fire upon the boat's crews, which was returned by the Fah-Kee's guns, when a Rebel battery opened fire, and our boats returned to the ship. The Fah-Kee continued her fire until the Bendigo was well riddled, and destroyed. The following vessels, 19 in all, have been destroyed or captured off Wilmington since the 19th of July last: Kate, chased ashore and recovered. Hebe, chased ashore and destroyed. Dare, chased ashore and destroyed. Venus, chased ashore and destroyed. Phantom, chased ashore and destroyed. Arabia, went to pieces on the bar. Elizabeth, beached and destroyed by crew. Ceres, beached and partly destroyed by crew. Beauregard, beached and partly destroyed by crew. Antonica, beached and partly destroyed by crew. Merrimack, captured. Juno, Cornubia, R. E. Lee, Ella and Anna, and the Ella, all captured. Bendigo, destroyed. Margaret and Jessie, and Banshee, captured by the United States steamer Fulton.

The case of the Chesapeake was before the Admiralty Court at Halifax on Saturday, but was not finally adjudicated. The Judge, however, declared that her seizure was an act of piracy, and that in his opinion, she should be returned to her owners. The Advocate-General maintained also that she should be restored. The Testimony for the prosecution closed on the 11th instant. It was shown that a meeting of captains and sailors was held in St. John, at which Capt. Parker tried to get a crew to go to New-York to capture a vessel, stating that he had a commission from the Confederate Government; but he made no exhibition to that effect. The Court adjourned to the 15th.

Acting Rear-Admiral Bailey reports to the Navy Department a successful expedition for the destruction of Rebel salt-works at St. Andrew's Sound and Lake Ocala, Florida. An immense quantity of salt and a very large number of salt-works were destroyed, also five large flatboats. The entire damage to the Rebels by the expedition is estimated at three millions of dollars, which reduced to the Rebel currency would amount to from thirty to fifty millions. Thirty-one contrabands employed at the salt-works concluded to leave their dear masters and put themselves under the protection of our flag.

The Boston Traveller states that letters have been received in that city from a Northern clergyman, who established himself in Charleston, with his family, but a short time before the Rebellion. He gives touching details of the anguish and suffering of the inhabitants of the place, many of whom hope and pray for redemption, even at the hands of the Yankees. In his opinion, the time is rapidly approaching when it will be found necessary to give up the city to save the people from absolute starvation. Of course, all that can leave the place; but many have not the means, neither have they any place of refuge.

The Navy Department has been advised of the capture of the Rebel schooner Marshall J. Smith by the gunboat Kennebec. She was discovered about 18 miles east of Mobile Point, at night. Discovering the Kennebec, she changed her course and hauled to land. A shell was fired, and the vessel was approached and boarded. She was from Mobile, bound to Havana with a cargo of 260 bales of cotton and some turpentine. Her manifest and papers were thrown overboard.

Luther O. Greene, esq., editor of *The Vermont Standard*, sends the following special dispatch dated "Woodstock, Vt., Jan. 6, 1864:"

"Vermont has raised her quota under the last call of the President, and nearly 300 to spare, and this without taking into account the reënlistments in the field, of which there are already reported, unofficially, several hundreds. The enlistments have been mainly from the best class of her laboring population. Foreign enlistments and substitute brokerage have found little favor in the State."

Over 3,500 refugees from various parts of the South have passed through Cairo since July last, 3,000 of whom have received pecuniary aid from the United States Sanitary Agent there. Six thousand dollars have been thus applied from funds specially contributed by the people for the purpose. Persons wishing to contribute to this noble charity can address N. E. Shipman, U. S. Sanitary Agent, Cairo, Ill.

From returns received at the office of the Paymaster-General of Connecticut, it is conclusively shown that the quota of that State, under the last call of the President, has been filled, and that there is a surplus of 500. Meanwhile the Thirtieth Connecticut Regiment is being recruited, and enlistments, both in the field and at home, are progressing rapidly.

Lieut. Green with a detachment of the 3d Union Arkansas Cavalry, on route from Little Rock for Fort Smith, was attacked a few days since by the Rebel Colonel Hall. The enemy were whipped and the Colonel and nine men captured. Capt. Napier the same night had a fight with a Rebel force (recently from Yellow County, and captured Lieut. Barnett and 15 men.

A dispatch from Fort Smith of the 10th reports that a Rebel Lieutenant, with a squad of men, came into our lines that day, having left Price's headquarters at Longwood on Christmas. Gen. Holmes commands the Rebel Trans-Mississippi Department, and Price commands the army in the field, which is from 13,000 to 17,000 strong. Only 3,000 or 4,000 of Price's Missourians survive—the veterans of Lexington and Pea Ridge are nearly all dead. The Rebel troops are badly clothed and fed, and are greatly disheartened by news of Union successes in Texas. It was supposed that Holmes and Price would soon make an attempt upon Little Rock and Fort Smith.

Three of the crew of the Star of the West, captured a long time ago by the Rebels, escaped from prison at Richmond a few days since, and arrived safely at Fortress Monroe. One of them wears a suit of ordinary blue cloth which cost him $1,000 in Confederate money; it could be bought here for less than $50 in greenbacks.

The amount of the subscriptions to the soldiers' bounty fund of this city, including the sum from the draft-relief fund, is now $1,723,400. The amount paid to the Committee for disbursement is $1,092,000. The unexpended balance to be applied to the payment of recruits is about three-quarters of a million.

On Monday the 59th and 60th New-York Volunteers, who came home to recruit, were stingily welcomed in the Park by a few lonely-looking city officers. But for the turning out of the 71st Regiment of State Militia, their welcome would have been little else than the cold shoulder.

Maj.-Gen. Sickles appeared before a large audience at Irving Hall on the 8th instant, and delivered an interesting lecture on the war and its lessons. He spoke of the courage, endurance, patriotism and intelligence of our volunteers, and of the inexhaustible resources of the country.

Dr. W. Webster, in charge of the McDougall Hospital, Fort Schuyler, N. Y. recently tried by Court-Martial for disobedience of orders, for refusing to permit the military authorities to remove a dangerously wounded man from his hospital, has been acquitted, and restored to duty.

The Maryland Senate on the 11th passed a resolution appointing a Committee to wait on the President to protest against the operation of Gen. Birney in seizing slaves in Maryland. The House refused to concur by a vote of 27 to 26—20 members not voting.

Nine full regiments have gone into camp in Indiana, and two more regiments are nearly full. Recruits for the old regiments are pouring into Indianapolis by hundreds. The State has nearly filled her quota.

The bill to extend to the 1st of March the bounties to volunteers passed the Senate in the precise form in which it left the House, and, therefore, only awaits the President's signature to become a law.

Gov. Bramlette of Kentucky sent a message into the Senate on the 9th, urging the immediate necessity of raising troops for the State defense.

All the prisoners in the Chesapeake case, at Halifax, have been bound over to appear before the Supreme Court.

GENERAL NEWS.

The funeral of Archbishop Hughes was held on the 7th, with all the solemn pomp and pageantry of the Church. During the three previous days, thousands of citizens had visited the Cathedral to see for the last time [illegible] and seen so often in life. On the occasion of the funeral the crowd was immense, all the streets near the place being full and the church jammed to suffocation. Nearly the whole of the interior of the Cathedral was veiled in black. The tall columns were draped with sable, relieved with white about the centers and capitals, and the walls were covered with black cloth. The organ gallery and chamber were also covered with the same material. The windows were crowned with black rosettes, and festoons were continued in white curtains over the side columns. The pulpit was covered with mourning, and the canopy was elaborately trimmed with white. The catafalque was ornamented with plumes and surmounted by a sable cross. The altar was elaborately decorated. The symbols of mourning were visible on every hand, and nothing was unveiled save the famous paintings so long the admiration of the lovers of art. Over the high altar was a splendid cross of japonicas. In all parts of the building were white rosettes and other ornamental figures. Of course, all the priesthood and prominent lay members of the church were present, and beside these a great many protestants, public officers, &c. The clerical procession moved from the Sacristy to the High Altar, where Matins and Lauds were led by the Rev. Dr. Glynn. The Bishops then vested themselves for the Pontifical Requiem Mass, the Right Rev. Bishop Timon of Buffalo being celebrant; the Very Rev. Father Starrs, Assistant Priest; the Rev. Father Quinn of St. Peter's, Deacon; the Rev. Father Preston of St. Ann's, Sub-Deacon; and the Rev. Fathers Nieenoy and Farrell, Masters of Ceremonies. The choir embraced representatives from several Catholic churches, under the leadership of Prof. Berge. Mr. Harrison presided at the organ. At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop McClusky of Albany ascended the pulpit and delivered the funeral sermon from the text: "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice which the Just Judge shall render to me." The sermon was an eloquent and affectionate tribute to the lamented Archbishop. Last came the absolution. A number of priests stood at the head and others at the foot of the catafalque, chanting and responding, and the Bishops walked around the corpse sprinkling it with holy water. The body was then gently borne on the shoulders of six priests along the aisle and thence to the vault, while the priests in and about the sanctuary chanted a solemn dirge, which was continued till the coffin bearers returned. Then the Bishops and the priests moved in solemn procession to the rooms in the rear of the altar, and all was over.

Commodore Geo. H. Storer, of the United States Navy, died on the 8th inst. A few days since he announced his retirement from the Naval Retiring Board, now in session at the Brooklyn Marine Barracks. Illness prevented him from continuing his duties as a member of the Board. His death was not unexpected, as he had been ailing for some time. Commodore Storer was born near the town of Portsmouth, N. H., and obtained a Midshipman's warrant in 1809. His immediate classmates were Skinner, Newton, Smith and Rosseau. Admiral Gregory, at present Superintendent of Iron-clads here, was also a school-fellow of his. He served at sea some 24 years, and was on shore nearly 17 years. He was Governor of the Naval Asylum in 1855, and since that time had not performed any active duty afloat. Although he had been sitting on courts-martial and acting as member of various Boards within the last six years, Commodore Storer's health was anything but good. In person he was rather low sized, but possessed a very commanding manner. He was always beloved by his officers and crew, and has left on record some of the kindest acts. In politics he was a moderate Whig, but earnest in his support of the Government since the war broke out. The Navy Department has telegraphed to the different navy-yards to have his memory duly honored.

Coroner Wildey on Tuesday held an inquest at No. 274 West Twenty-second street, on the body of Geo. P. Soars, a merchant lately doing business at No. 23 Park row, who died from the effects of inhaling "Laughing Gas" at the dental establishment of Dr. Joseph Colbit. The deceased, wishing to have some teeth drawn, requested the dentist to administer the gas, which was done, the teeth were drawn, and the patient soon complained of a difficulty in breathing. He sank on a lounge and almost immediately expired. A medical examination revealed the fact that his lungs were in a diseased condition. The Jury exonerated the dentist from all blame in the matter.

Coroner Naumann on Monday continued the investigation in the case of the unknown man who was on the night of Jan. 1 stabbed in Chatham square. He has since been identified as Jose M. Souza, a Portuguese. In company with a friend, he entered the saloon at the corner of Chatham street and the New Bowery, and while there became engaged in a dispute with three Spaniards, named Jose Alfonso, Joseph Silva, and —— Castella, regarding the merits of Spain and Portugal. He soon left, accompanied by his friend, and was followed by the Spaniards. Immediately after reaching the street, he was stabbed by some person (believed to be Castella) through the heart, and almost instantly expired. His assailant, together with his friend, fled, and have not since been seen. The deceased was removed to a neighboring drug store, and the friends of Castella appeared a moment after, looking very much excited, but left before the police arrived. On a hearing of this testimony, the jury rendered a verdict that deceased met his death at the hands of —— Castella, and that Joseph Silva is an accessory after the fact. Warrants have been issued for their arrest, but it is believed that they have left the country. Jose Alfonso, who states that he did not witness the assault, having remained in the saloon some moments after his companions left, was committed to the House of Detention by the Coroner, he believing him to be an important witness.

The Hon. Caleb Blood Smith, United States Circuit Judge for Indiana and ex-Secretary of the Interior, died on Thursday evening at Indianapolis. Born in Boston, Mass., April 16, 1808, he removed at an early age to Cincinnati, in which city and in Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, he received his education; and having graduated at the latter institution he commenced the study of law. In 1828 he was admitted to the bar and opened an office in Connersville, Ind. From 1833 to 1836, and also in 1840, he was a member of the House of Representatives of Indiana; in 1835 and 1836 was Speaker of the House, and for several years was one of the Fund Commissioners of that State. In 1840 he was a Presidential Elector on the Whig ticket; from 1843 to 1847 was a Member of Congress from Indiana, and subsequently served as one of the Commissioners to adjust claims against Mexico, the duties of which position having been fulfilled, he resumed the practice of his profession in Cincinnati. In 1856 he was one of the Presidential electors on the Republican ticket in Ohio, and in 1858 he removed to Indianapolis, where he remained until 1861, when he received from President Lincoln the appointment of Secretary of the Interior. On the 22d of December, 1862, having accepted the transfer by the President, he was confirmed by the Senate as United States Circuit Judge for Indiana.

A Tampico letter of Nov. 22, published in a New-Orleans paper, contains the following item about the progress of the Mexican war: Our last files from San Luis Potosi are up to the 10th inst. The principal capitals had been occupied—Guanajuato by 3,000 French troops, and Queretaro, Morelia and Guadalajara by the rest of the combined forces of the French and Mexicans. Aguas Calientes had likewise surrendered to Col. Chavez, after a siege. Gen. Marquez was in Morelia; Gen. Miramon, accompanied by his two brothers and two hundred other chieftains and officers, had left the city of Mexico to raise a division, with which he was to march on Durango. San Luis was expected to be occupied by the 25th inst., and Juarez, it is said, intended to take refuge in Texas, with his family and friends. Letters from the interior of the country say that no resistance will be opposed to the occupation of San Luis, Juarez's government being a mere effigy, nobody obeying orders.

In a case before the United States Court of Claims, the petition of the claimants was presented without having affixed to it the stamp of fifty cents required by the act approved July 1, 1862, section 110, in the clause relating to legal documents to be affixed to every writ or other original process by which any suit is commenced in any Court of record, either at law or in equity, and the Clerk asked to be advised as to whether the said petition should be docketed. The Court, after due consideration, adjudged that no writ or other legal process could issue in any case against the United States; that as a Government or sovereignty it is always present in the Courts, and that no process is necessary, and no stamp is required. Judge Peck dissented.

The Committee of Ways and Means, in their supplemental bill, reported on Tuesday, propose to place a duty on spirits of 60 cents a gallon; on cotton, 2 cents per pound; and it provides that the duties on spirits shall be levied on all upon which no duties have been paid and no returns made from 12th January, 1864. It provides that spirits may be stored in bonded warehouses and exported without payment of duty, and only such can be exported, as no drawback is to be allowed. The bill adds an equivalent amount to the tariff on spirits, and allows an equivalent amount to the drawback on cotton manufactures exported.

The steamer Oregon has arrived at San Francisco with $200,000 in treasure from Oregon and $73,000 from British Columbia. She brings news that on the 16th of December the small town of Port Angeles, Washington Territory, was nearly swept away by a torrent of water bursting from a gorge in the mountains near the bay. The Custom-House, a large two-story building, was destroyed. Collector Gunn escaped, but one Deputy and Inspector were drowned. The dwelling of Mr. Victor Smith was destroyed, his family barely escaping.

The House Committee on Public Expenditures, to which is referred the resolution to examine into the alleged frauds and shipment of contraband goods in New-York, consist of Messrs. Holburd, Broomall, Loblond, Julian, Lazear, Blair, (W. V.,) Rollins, (N. H.,) Rogers and Harris, (Ill.) It is known that an investigation into the affairs of the New York Custom-House, which have led to the imprisonment of certain officers in Fort Lafayette, has been in progress some time, under the direction of Mr. Denison, the naval officer of this port.

The bill of Senator Lane, of Kansas, to set apart a portion of the State of Texas for the use of persons of African descent, assigns them the region between the Colorado and the Rio Grande, in Texas, in which they are allowed the privilege of the Homestead Law; the officer in charge of emigration, hereafter to be appointed by the President, is charged with the execution of this act, and the appropriations heretofore made for colonization purposes, are placed in the hands of the President, to carry its provisions into effect.

The deaths in this city for the week ending Monday numbered 487—an increase of 11 over the previous week, and of 54 over the corresponding week last year. 204 of the number were under four years of age. Among the principal causes of death were: consumption, 74; scarlet fever, 27; typhus and typhoid fevers, 26; inflammation of the lungs, 50; diphtheria, 13; croup, 23; bronchitis, 13; heart disease, 8; old age, 7. 311 were natives of the United States, 116 of Ireland, and the remainder of various foreign countries.

The Croton Board of this city laid last year 29,548 feet of water pipe; the total length of mains now in use is 296 miles. The new reservoir holds 1,000,000,000 of gallons, all others 195,000,000. The city demands 60,405,517 gallons per day, about 60 gallons or two barrels for each inhabitant. We ought to be a clean people, with clean streets, but we are not. The amount received from water rents and penalties was $690,958 90, being an increase over the previous year of $57,723 20.

A bill introduced by Representative Stevens, on Monday, and the consideration thereof postponed till February next, provides that within all the territory of the Confederate States, which has been, or may be, conquered and subdued by the Federal arms, all laws and parts of laws which permit Slavery, are henceforth abolished, and that Slavery shall never again be established within said territory; that thereafter no portion of it shall be admitted into the Union as a State, or be represented in its Congress, excepting by Delegates, if the same should be authorized, until the people within the territory forming such State shall, by its organic law, forever prohibit Slavery therein.

A serious accident occurred on the Northern Central Railroad of Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Two passenger cars became detached from the mail train from Harrisburg, and were run into by a road train. The cars were demolished. D. O'Callaghan of London, Canada, was killed, and six other passengers badly wounded, including the Hon. R. C. Parsons of Cleveland, Ohio, and Lieut.-Col. Blackman of Ohio.

The joint resolution of Senator McDougall, in relation to the French occupation of Mexico, asserts that it is an act unfriendly to the United States; that it is the duty of this Government to demand the withdrawal of her armed forces from the Mexican territory, and that unless the withdrawal shall take place prior to the 15th day of March next, it is the duty of this Government to declare war against France.

The Bangor Whig of the 7th says it learns from a private letter received in that city that in passing through the town of Liverpool, on his way to Halifax, Blaine, the leader of the pirates who captured the Chesapeake, came in contact with a live Yankee, Mr. F. A. Pitcher of Yarmouth, who procured an officer, arrested and carried him to Halifax and delivered him to the proper authorities.

The Maine Legislature in convention on the 8th elected the following officers: Ephraim Flint, Secretary of State; John A. Peters, Attorney-General; John L. Hodsden, Adjutant-General; Hiram Chapman, Land Agent; Charles Holden, John J. Perry, Hiram Briggles, John M. Noyes, Sewall Watson, Alonzo Stark and Joseph Farwell, Councilors.

Gov. Brough of Ohio was inaugurated on Monday. In his Address he recommends a tax of three mills on a dollar for the support of soldiers' families. In regard to National affairs he reiterates the principles announced in his Marietta speech. The inaugural ceremonies were very imposing, and witnessed by a large audience.

The Opposition members of Congress met again on Tuesday and passed a little milk and water resolution about the propriety of not hurting the Rebels much, but to let them all come back with their rights unimpaired. The efforts to fix a place for the next Democratic National Convention was too much for them, and they adjourned.

The hosiery and yarn factory of A. H. & C. B. Alling, at Birmingham, Conn., was burned on Thursday night. Loss $50,000; partially insured. A man named Cooper was burned to death, and 300 persons were deprived of employment.

George Hacon, first officer of the ship Neptune, was killed by some of the crew on the 30th ult., while at sea. On the arrival of the ship on the 7th nine of the crew were taken into custody. Some of them state that the second mate is the guilty party.

We still hear good news from Arkansas. A Cincinnati dispatch says that "a delegation of prominent citizens from Arkansas has arrived here on route to Washington to make arrangements for Arkansas to resume her position in the Union."

The Massachusetts Legislature met on the 6th inst.; Jonathan E. Field was elected President of the Senate, and A. A. Bullock, Speaker of the House, same as last year. The annual sermon was by President Stearns of Amherst College.

Senator Wilson's bill, which was passed on Monday, provides that all money received from commutation shall be paid directly into the Treasury, and paid out on requisition, for expenses of the draft and the procuration of substitutes.

A bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, to reimburse Pennsylvania for expenses incurred in repelling invasion, provides for the payment of the audited cases, involving $700,000, according to the official estimates.

Governor Seymour's Police Commissioners made a formal demand on Saturday for the places now held by Messrs. Acton and Bergen. The request was politely refused, and the Governor's proteges retired.

The New-Jersey Legislature organized on Tuesday; Amos Robbins, of Middlesex, was elected President of the Senate, and Joseph N. Taylor, of Passaic, Speaker of the House, both Democrats.

Ex-Gov. Thomas H. Hicks has been elected United States Senator from Maryland to fill the unexpired term of Senator Pearce. Mr. Hicks is now filling the place by the Governor's appointment.

The Lake Superior region of Michigan is adding gold to her rich list of mineral treasures, some promising specimens having been found on the lands of the Marquette Silver Mining Company.

By the explosion of a locomotive on Monday evening at Milton Junction, on the North-Western Railroad, one passenger was killed and several wounded—two of them mortally.

The National Democratic Committee have decided upon Chicago as the place and the 4th of July as the day for holding the National Convention to nominate a candidate for President.

The steamer Montauk, from New-Haven, with troops, went ashore on Mattinnicock Point on the 7th instant during the snow-storm, and broke the flange of her screw.

James Best, who pleaded guilty of attempting to take the life of a colored boy in Thomas street during the riots of July last, has been sentenced to two years imprisonment.

Judge Abraham D. Russell is understood to have received from Gov. Seymour the appointment of City Judge to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Judge McCunn.

The Hon. J. D. Caton, Chief Justice of Illinois, has resigned, and Corydon Beckwith, esq., of Chicago, has been appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy.

The Kansas Legislature organized on the 12th by the election of Anti-Lane candidates for Speaker, Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate.

Gray, Hemingway & Bros.' glass establishment, No. 18 Columbia street, Cincinnati, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night.

Benj. G. Harris, member of Congress from the 5th District of Maryland, died on Monday at Washington of small pox.

The parties at work on the wreck of the Golden Gate, have recovered $654,000 of the treasure sunk with her.

Gen. Frank Blair appeared in the House on Tuesday for the first time this session, was qualified and took his seat.

The War Democrats of Ohio held a meeting at Columbus on Friday. No nominations were made.

St. Joseph's (Catholic) College, near Montrose, Pa., was destroyed by fire on the 1st.

Maj.-Gen. Grant and Staff arrived at Louisville on Monday night from Knoxville.

The receipts of the great Sanitary Fair at Cincinnati are estimated at $200,000.

Connecticut has filled her quota and is getting up an additional regiment.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 1864.

"PEACE."

Gov. Seymour, in his late Message, saw fit to assert unqualifiedly that

"Wise statesmanship can now bring this War to a close, upon the terms solemnly avowed at the outset of the contest."

Gov. Seymour does not state this as his inference from facts known to all, but as absolutely true. We immediately demanded the production of evidence; but none is given. On the contrary, we have negative proof that it is either false or has so recently become true that it was baseless when uttered. Let us adduce it.

The Daily News, issued in our City, and edited by a member of the Union Congress, is owned and directed by Mr. Benjamin Wood, whose thorough sympathy with the Rebels has never been disguised. It is his boast that he never voted a man nor a dollar for the prosecution of the War for the Union; while his columns have repeatedly borne testimony to his fidelity to every dogma on which the Rebellion is based—the eternal fitness of Slavery; the Right of Secession; No Coercion, &c., &c. *The Albany Evening Journal* does not more uniformly reflect the views and sentiments of Gov. Seward, or *The Albany Argus* those of Erastus Corning, than does *The Daily News* mirror those of Jefferson Davis. During the whole period of its existence, *The News*, so far as we have observed, has never contained an original paragraph that Davis or Beauregard could object to—never, as we remember, praising any of our Generals but McClellan—certainly no one who eagerly fought and decidedly vanquished the Rebels. The Washington report that one of our City journals had recently exacted a subsidy from the Rebel chiefs or from their sympathizers in Washington or Baltimore, if true at all, must of course have related to *The News*.

Now *The News* is just as well posted with regard to what the Rebel chiefs are willing to do as any loyal journal can be with regard to the plans and purposes of our own Government, and is quite unlikely to misstate them. Yet it is but a few days since, on publishing a rather old letter from T. Butler King, intimating that 'the South' might return to the Union *if* she could have all the guarantees she wanted for eternal and universal Slavery, *The News* pointedly dissented from that intimation, implying that she would be satisfied with nothing less than independence. And, while roundly condemning our Government for not allowing Aleck Stephens to come to Washington in his Confederate gunboat, *The News* is now arguing that 'the South' can make no overtures—that we ought to send commissioners to Richmond to sue for peace at the Rebels' hands. It asks, if the Editor of THE TRIBUNE is

"not ashamed, as a Northerner, to admit that the North, in inviting negotiation in the hour of its military supremacy, could be morally affected to its prejudice as the South would be if the invitation emanated from the South? For the stronger party to propose negotiation is magnanimity; for the weaker party, it is the sign of weakness and irresolution," &c., &c.

—This is rather a clever dodge, but it won't answer. For when we, one year ago, were anxiously seeking some tangible evidence of Rebel inclination to a just and honorable peace, and when the Editor of The News [illegible] communicated with Jeff. Davis at least once a week—(we do not say, for we do not know, that he *did*)—there was, even then, no *ultimatum*, or specific terms of any kind, proposed on behalf of the Rebels, though we had just been repulsed, with terrible slaughter, at Fredericksburg in the East and at Vicksburg in the West. The 'point of honor' was not then in the way; the Rebels might have proposed terms without incurring "prejudice" or in any degree admitting that they were "the weaker party." If they had had any terms to propose *then* that they supposed would be acceptable to even the Democrats of the North, we should have forthwith seen those terms blazoned in *The Daily News*. But none were forthcoming in their hour of prosperity, and we presume none will be in their day of adversity.

Had the Slave Power chosen to defeat Mr. Lincoln, it could easily have done so. Had it really desired the adoption of the Crittenden Compromise, it had only to keep its members in Congress through the short session of 1860-1, to have secured it. Could it have been content with unbounded alacrity in Slave-catching and an amendment of the Constitution utterly inhibiting any Abolition of Slavery by Congress while *one* State opposed it, it could have had that—even after the Nullifiers went out. Had it desired reunion with Slavery on the old basis, that was very long to be had for the asking. It might now have reunion with every thing as it was before Secession but Slavery—*that* is a broken egg which no chemistry of compromise can restore to soundness and vitality. By and by, it will be willing to return to the Union with Slavery as it is; and, when even this is too late, will be glad to accept an amnesty and let the slaves go free. We fervently hope that it may not delay this until so reduced by suffering and confiscation as not to be able to insist on *any* terms whatever.

The News has influence with Dixie, and it should exert it—not to persuade Rebel prisoners of war to persist in their treason, but to persuade the chiefs to make terms while they may, and not further expose their people to wholesale want and suffering. Slavery is practically dead; yet its carcass may be kept above-ground, a nuisance and a scourge, for the next thirty years. It is the vital interest of the Republic, but more especially of the South, that the loathsome thing be speedily buried out of sight.

A free school for military tactics has been established in Philadelphia by the Supervisory Committee for recruiting colored regiments. Its object is to furnish the preliminary instruction in tactics, &c., necessary to enable men otherwise well qualified to pass their examination by the Board at Washington for commissions in colored regiments, and the school has the approval of that Board, of which Maj.-Gen. Casey is President. A competent instructor is in charge. The Committee invites young men desirous of commanding colored troops to avail themselves of the facilities thus offered without charge for instruction. A descriptive pamphlet has been issued from which those interested may get all necessary information.

LETTERS, ART, AND THE WAR.

The newspapers about this time, at least through their advertising columns, are exceedingly and we may say pleasantly suggestive. The arts of war which we have been forced to cultivate seem to have repaid us for our devotion by lending a stimulus to the arts of peace. It is not common for a people engaged in "a cruel, bloody, and barbarous war," to find time for the elegancies and delicacies of reading—we are Goths who buy new poems, Vandals crowding to see new pictures, savages thirsting for musical and dramatic novelties, fanatics of so strange a stamp that for us no singer is too sweet and no artist too refined. With our hearts full of anxiety, and with our personal pleasures subordinate to the public weal, we welcome with friendly eagerness the new books of our favorite authors, and demand them in elaborately sumptuous forms, as we like to see those who are dearest to us well-dressed for the holidays. This would seem to indicate something more than a general cultivation of the eye and the ear—something better than effeminate preferences, which are quite consistent with public decay—a real intellectual healthiness and activity, which must exercise an important influence upon our future fortune. We are beginning to reap the priceless harvest of our educational system in the clear intelligence with which the public mind acts upon public affairs, and in the patience with which it waits for historical justice. Napoleon sneered at the ideology of the Germans, but the philosophers in the end proved too much for the Old Guard. The Slaveholders have never been weary of contemptuously nicknaming us theorists, nor of predicting that education would prove a dangerous solvent of our social integrity; but now, when the whole question of the war is narrowed down to one of persistence, the passionate and spasmodic desperation of an ignorant aristocracy, competes but ill with the rational determination of plain farmers and mechanics. Our English censors, who are so pathetic when they deplore our pecuniary wastefulness, seem to have forgotten that in addition to our material resources, we bring to the contest millions of active minds and of generous hearts. There can be no political insolvency of a people who make it their business to think and their pride to think wisely, and who read all histories with a continual consciousness that they too are adding annals honorable or disgraceful to the chronicles of mankind.

It is impossible also, to forget that our literary cultivation is not of a secluded, austere, and monastic character, but that it constitutes, next perhaps to the ties of affinity, the chief charm of countless homes which are happy, not in perishing and earthly treasures, but in a predominating courtesy and that refinement which banishes personal selfishness from board and fireside. It is a cultivation which is shared alike by man and woman, by the old and the young, by the rich and the poor, which makes tenderer the ties of consanguinity, and lends to love the perpetuating influence of common tastes and pursuits. It presupposes a certain calmness and sobriety, a just recognition of our loftiest duties, a discrimination between pleasures which are fleeting and those which are perpetual, and a recognition of life's dignity and duty, which insures decorum and fidelity. A planter, whose whole idea of home is of an establishment swarming with tangible evidences of wealth, and remarkable merely for the many menials who jostle each other in ministering to its coarse necessities, has no comprehension of that domestic enjoyment which results from a community of refined tastes and elevated pursuits; for, spite of modern garb, speech and habit, he is not one ell in advance of the Roman patrician who ostentatiously paraded his bondmen, and occasionally, for the gratification of his guests, flung a living serf into his fish-pond. The man-owner finds his prototype in the baron of the middle ages, who scorned politeness of demeanor and of speech; and who was equally proud of his ancestry and his ignorance. It is not to be denied that to this rule there are exceptions; but the general influence of Slavery is none the less to be traced in those plantation manners which long ago became proverbial.

The effect of popular cultivation is sufficiently to be seen in those high hopes of future greatness which it has become one of our daily habits to cherish for our country. It is customary for foreigners to sneer at American vanity, as it is called, and to ridicule our attachment to the formulas upon which we have based our Republic. We are content to abide the contempt and misrepresentation of those who believe that the future, by a kind of clinging fatality, must repeat the errors of the past, and that the world long ago mastered the possibilities of social advancement. If old Lord Brougham has abandoned his early faith in the schoolmaster, and has asserted the bliss of ignorance, we still believe that knowledge is power, and that its diffusion must result in an increase of human happiness. If this be not so—if a high average of intellectual power does not increase our immunity from the degrading accidents of existence—if all the experience of mankind has taught us nothing, why should we not, without a qualm, apply the torch to our libraries, surrender the charters of our universities, close the doors of our schools, banish from our habitations every evidence of refinement, discard the amenities of civilization, and crawl back to the low appetites and limited life of the naked savage? Between this and something better than we already possess there is no choice. It is the crowning blessing of our day and generation, that we are able to conceive of a Government intended for the safety and the happiness of all, and that we have not been contented to abide by mere approximations to social equity, but while recognizing all that is good in our polity, we have scorned to admit the necessity of wrong and injustice, and have striven to make our performance equal to our pretension. In this work, we have encountered many difficulties, and greater ones are before us, but great as they are, it is encouraging to remember that they are opposed by a resolute intelligence, and by an active national conscience. We may have nothing of that chivalry which sells men, beats women, and bastardizes its own offspring; but we have all which ever made chivalry endurable—its sense of personal honor, its tenderness in the presence of suffering, its scorn of falsehood, and its faith in the providence of God. Standing upon the threshold of another year, it becomes us to renew our vows of fidelity to social truth, to reassert our faith in simple justice, to recall the duties which this day of doubt and disturbance have imperiously imposed upon us, to give to the land which we love our hearty good wishes, with a warm belief that all we wish for her, our own fidelity and courage can secure.

THE CANAL AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Benton has done a service to the Canal Department and to the State by his clear, forcible, and temperate statement of the disastrous influences which check the prosperity of our canals. Reckless expenditure in extraordinary repairs, and generally under the prevailing contract system; misappropriation of the canal revenues to objects which are neither legal nor beneficial; and the settled hostility of rival railroad interests to which the State has surrendered her rights, and over which she has resigned no small part of her control—these are the obstacles against which the canal system of New-York struggles.

That in spite of them all the canals do still contribute abundantly to her prosperity, is cause for wonder even more than for gratitude.

The act of 1862, which declared the canal completed, either ought never to have been passed, or ought to have omitted the provision by which the Canal Commissioners and Canal Board were empowered to make "extraordinary repairs." For it is evident enough that, under cover of that phrase, it was intended really to leave an opening for doing what the act regarded as already done—completing the canals. And it ought to have been evident at the time —what is too abundantly evident now—that such a method of finishing them would be more open to frauds and extravagance and more costly in the end than to have executed in good faith the contracts then existing. The sum of $630,000 has since been appropriated to this end, and Mr. Benton is beyond question right in alleging that its large excess over the necessary expenditure or the old contracts is chargeable to the Legislature, which passed the act.

Not directly connected with this topic, but suggested by it, is the matter of "ordinary repairs," wherein a different but not less flagrant abuse is pointed out. "These contracts," says Mr. Benton, "are framed with the intention of covering every item of work to be done on a superintendent's canal section that can by any reasonable and fair legal construction be embraced within the term 'ordinary repairs' of a completed canal, except in special cases." Notwithstanding which there are annually charged to account of ordinary repairs $300,000 more than is paid to contractors for such repairs, which is about 100 per cent on the original contracts. That is to say, the repairing of the canals is contracted to be done for $308,168, and under the officers now charged by law with the duty of supervising their execution, does in fact cost over $600,000. Is it remarkable that the canal finances exhibit occasional symptoms of derangement?

The relations between the canals, which are the property of the State, and the railroads—which seem to regard both the canals and the State as *their* property—are only too well known. The Central, under its present management, aspires not merely to control the policy of the State Government in reference to the canals, but to direct also the politics and policy of the whole State in much broader relations. That its gigantic power is unscrupulously used to the impoverishment of the State finances and the diminution of the canal revenue, does not make it in the least probable that either will be speedily emancipated from its control. Yet familiar as this tyranny is grown, some of Mr. Benton's figures may even now attract attention, and will perhaps, if they can do nothing more, excite an indolent surprise. For instance, from 1853 to 1862 inclusive, the freight traffic on the Central and Erie Railroads increased from 991,039 to 3,010,398 tuns, and their freight receipts from $4,376,044 to $13,250,246. During the same period of ten years the freight traffic on the canals increased only from 4,247,853 to 5,598,785 tuns, and this increase of 1,350,932 tuns is less than the increased tunnage delivered at tide water from the Western States within three years. Hence the losses sustained by the canals.

Again, a tabular statement in Mr. Benton's report shows that if railroad rates had been paid on 18,538,318 tuns carried in four years on the canals, their revenues would have been $80,027,328; and that if the railroads had charged only canal rates on the 8,312,447 tuns which they carried, their receipts would have been but $14,288,068, instead of $36,780,458. The cost of moving freight on the railways was 157 per cent greater than on the canals.

It appears further that while the traffic which might have been reserved for the canals has thus been diverted to the railways, the canal revenues have been $4,390,000 less than the constitutional charges upon them, and that taxes to the amount of $5,571,758 82 have been levied upon the people in order to supply the deficiency which the railroads have absorbed into the pockets of their stockholders.

Into the question of the illegal and unconstitutional misappropriation of the canal revenues we cannot enter. The present deficiences and deferred payments to different funds will be found at length in Mr. Brenton's report. If they do not solicit legislative interposition and reform this year, they will compel it at some later day when the consequences of present mismanagement become more evident and disastrous. The Auditor has done his duty in stating the facts. The Legislature cannot do any part of its duty without extensive inquiry and sweeping reforms.

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN EASTERN ASIA.

The British rule in India is threatened with a new danger. Another insurrection has broken out among the warlike tribes of the mountains of the North-Western Provinces. They have had several engagements with the British troops, and the English accounts state that the insurrection has assumed alarming proportions, and that their troops have suffered severe losses. These statements will suffice to spread alarm throughout Great Britain, and to awaken an interest in the issue over the entire civilized world.

For, ever since the Sepoy insurrection, the world knows that an Indian revolt puts a great deal at stake. The first object of the insurgents will always be the overthrow of the British rule, and the restoration of independence; but the means by which they will seek to attain their object are such as to strike terror into all Great Britain. A victory of the insurgents in the present state of Indian civilization is always likely to be followed by an extermination of all the British residents that may fall into their hands. Nor would this be the only result. However little England may have done for India, yet she represents there at present European civilization. Government and missionary schools are now scattered in all the provinces; telegraphs and railroads begin to span the entire country, and to revolutionize the minds of the natives; judicial reforms have done much toward suppressing lawlessness and anarchy; the idolatrous and mythological systems are falling into decay; the increased demand for Indian cotton by Europe bids fair to change the entire labor system of the country—in short, India is daily assimilating itself to England. The success of an armed insurrection would arrest at once this process. Not that, even in such a case, we should expect a relapse of all India into its former condition. Far from it; the decay of paganism would continue; the large number of native periodicals would increase rather than decrease; telegraphs and railroads would not disappear, and the educated minds among the natives would make their influence felt more than before. But the transition from British to native rule would, nevertheless, produce a momentous change.

Whether there is a probability of any such revolution soon taking place we are unable to judge by the meager accounts of recent occurrences; but another thing is more certain, that a transition in India from English to native rule is, in the course of time, inevitable. The lowest estimate of the native population of India is 137,000,000. The number of its inhabitants born in Great Britain, including the military, amounted in 1861 to only 125,905. Those classes of natives who are known or supposed to be friendly to the preservation of British rule, such as the native Christians, the Parsees, the so-called East Indians (of mixed, European and Indian descent), number, according to the estimate of English papers, only about 4,000,000. All the remainder are held in subjection against their will. It is therefore evident that in proportion as the masses of the native population become more educated and more conscious of their strength, the tenure of British power must become insecure.

Like British India, Japan is in a period of transition. Late intelligence, received by way of San Francisco, confirms a previous report that a civil war had broken out between those Daimios who are hostile to any intercourse with the foreigners and the Tycoon, who continues to cultivate friendly relations with them. The Tycoon has offered to the American Minister to pay the indemnity demanded for the attack upon the steamer Pembroke, and it was the general belief among the foreign residents of Kanagawa that, as far as the Tycoon is concern, a peaceful solution would be found for all the existing difficulties. But both the French and the English are preparing for the possibility that the Daimios may get the upper hand of the Tycoon. In that case, a long and determined war between Japan and the foreigners would be certain to ensue. The French, therefore, are fortifying the hights of Kanagawa, and at the date of our last advices were expecting two regiments of infantry, while the English Government had sent five European regiments from India to Japan.

The policy of both England and France in the East has hitherto been one of conquest and annexation. Such a policy must, of course, necessarily lead to dissatisfaction and insurrection, which will increase and become more powerful in proportion as these Asiatics become more civilized, and which can ultimately end only in the achievement of their freedom.

The Rochester Daily Union has a long attack on Mr. Thurlow Weed, and incidentally on Gov. Seward, with which we have no concern save in so far as our own name is dragged into it, in the following paragraph:

"It will be remembered by the older class of politicians that the *sincerity* of the anti-Masonic interest of New-York, headed by Messrs. Seward and Weed, was questioned by many of Mr. Clay's friends during the campaign; and their 'vigorous support' of the 'Mill-Boy of the Slashes' was freely spoken of as a sham. It was alleged with some specification of reasons that they had ends of their own to serve by secretly plotting Mr. Clay's defeat. The election over, and Polk chosen by the 'defection' of New-York, the anti-Seward papers openly charged that result to the secret intrigues of Gov. Seward and his clique—an organization which at that time ramified every nook and corner of the State. The firm of 'Seward, Weed and Greeley' was then comparatively new; but yet it appears that the junior member was not even at that early day admitted to the full confidence of the senior members of the firm. For, according to our informant, there were secrets of purpose and plans of which Mr. Greeley knew no more than outsiders. So, when an anti-Seward paper (*The Express*, we believe), immediately after the election, charged that Clay had been slaughtered by the Sewardites, Mr. Greeley flew to his own and their defense. *He* was a most ardent, sincere, enthusiastic Clay man, and he honestly believed his associates in the firm were equally upright and sincere. He published an article replying to the accusation. As soon as it reached Auburn, Gov. Seward wrote Mr. Greeley a private letter, requesting him to pay no attention to such damaging charges at present. Soon another article of like general character, but different in its specifications, appeared, placing the responsibility of the result on the same shoulders. Mr. Greeley again replied, and wrote Mr. Seward that, for reasons stated, he thought certain features of the article commented on should be attended to *at once*, and hence he had disregarded his request—he presumed, under the circumstances, with his (Seward's) approbation. Mr. Seward wrote Mr. Greeley again—'for ——'s sake hold on. Let them get out their whole case, and then we will attend to it,' &c. But new provocations would extort from Mr. Greeley fresh replies—well-meant, but seriously embarrassing to the Auburn Sage," &c., &c.

—We have only to say of the above that Mr. Greeley has no recollection of any such letters from Gov. Seward as are set forth above—no belief that he ever received any. Nor has he ever given credit to, or had any reason for believing, that either of the gentlemen above-named played false to Mr. Clay in the momentous struggle of 1844, (whereof that of 1861-4 is but the natural consequence.) Having done his very utmost for Mr. Clay's election throughout, Mr. Greeley has no doubt that every Whig did his best in that contest, and he never had an intimation, or hint, from Mr. Weed or Gov. Seward, with whom he was in those days in most intimate and friendly relations, that they did not really desire Mr. Clay's success. On the contrary, there are facts within his knowledge that seem utterly incompatible with the hypothesis upheld by *The Union*. And it is and has long been his decided conviction that, but for Mr. Clay's own unfortunate and sadly perverted letters to Alabama with regard to the Annexation of Texas, his election could not have been prevented.

Messrs. Weed and Seward are not our friends —the former, in fact, we understand, is very decidedly otherwise. But truth is truth, and we cannot conceive it possible that they played in 1844 the treacherous part which has been attributed to them—in fact, we feel certain that they did not and could not. How can it be otherwise, when the imputation is based upon allegations which we *know* to be unfounded, as above?

MARYLAND.

EX-GOV. THOMAS H. HICKS, who has just been chosen U. S. Senator from Maryland to fill the seat vacated by the death of the Hon. James A. Pearce, was a member of the old "Union" or Bell Everett party; and his record as Governor during the first four months of 1861 is not very consistent or creditable. He ultimately, however, came out unconditionally Union, and has since been very thoroughly loyal. He was a late convert to the policy of Emancipation; but he is now decidedly right. He was nominated in the Union caucus by a decided majority over Judge Thomas A. Spence, who was an earlier and more radical emancipationist. *The Baltimore American* asserts that hostility to the Hon. H. Winter Davis controlled this result. In the Legislature, the vote stood—Hicks 67; Samuel Hambleton (Dem.) 18; Spence 2. Gov. Hicks has provisionally filled the seat, by Gov. Bradford's appointment, since the death of Mr. Pearce.

McCLELLAN AS MENTOR.

Gen. McClellan's Report, detailing his own Military services, is soon to be before the public. We forbear comments till then. But he has chosen to embody in it a private letter written by him in 1862 to President Lincoln; and, as this is complete in itself, and is herewith laid before our readers, we proceed to speak of it.

Gen. McClellan had been attacked before Richmond, his right wing assailed, turned, broken, and crushed back on his main body, which remained inactive and harmless throughout, under his orders; and now, without allowing his army to measure its strength with the Rebel foe, he burned and destroyed several Millions' worth of munitions, provisions, railroad stock, &c., &c., and [illegible] movement' to the bank of the James. Arrived there, it was assailed by the Rebels in force, and, standing at bay, gave them a severe thrashing. Why it could not and should not rather have done this in its position before Richmond, with its field-works on one side and the Chickahominy on the other, saving the Millions' worth of property which its flight compelled it to destroy, and the thousands of wounded whom it was directed to abandon to the tender mercies of the enemy, we cannot yet learn; we may possibly be wiser if we can live to get through the General's Report. But, having at length reached a place of safety at Harrison's Landing, on the James, Gen. McClellan, on the 7th of July, 1862, addressed a letter to President Lincoln, wherein he says:

"The time has come when the Government must determine upon a civil and military policy covering the whole ground of our national trouble. The responsibility of determining, declaring, and supporting such civil and military policy, and of directing the whole course of national affairs in regard to the Rebellion, must now be assumed and exercised by you, or our cause will be lost. The Constitution gives you power sufficient even for the present terrible exigency. This Rebellion has assumed the character of war; as such it should be regarded, and it should be conducted upon the highest principles known to Christian civilization. It should not be a war looking to the subjugation of the people of any State on any event. It should not be at all a war upon population, but against armed forces and political organization. Neither confiscation of property, political executions of persons, territorial organizations of States, or *forcible abolition of Slavery*, should be contemplated for a moment."

—What had President Lincoln *done*, on the 7th of July, 1862, that should expose him to be lectured after this fashion? Had he proposed to conduct the War on any other than "the highest principles known to Christian civilization?" Had he evinced a vindictive, cruel, vengeful spirit? Had he even hinted at the Abolition of Slavery? On the contrary, had he not just overruled, then superseded, Gen. Fremont, because of his Emancipation order in Missouri?

The slaveholding caste, controlling the Governments and policies of eleven or twelve States, had made war on the Union. They had, nearly a year before, decreed the confiscation of all the property of Unionists within their reach, and had mercilessly enforced that decree. They had used slaves by thousands to erect fortifications and mount guns, and had armed and drilled two regiments of blacks at New-Orleans alone to fight against the Union. They habitually sheltered and concealed Rebel soldiers serving as scouts, spies, and guerrillas. The slaveholding caste (of course with individual exceptions), alike in the loyal and the Rebel States, was at that moment implacably hostile to the Union and doing its utmost to subvert and destroy it. Yet Gen. McClellan admonishes the President that the property of these venomous traitors must in no case be confiscated, nor must Slavery be 'forcibly abolished.' Why not?

Why should Gen. McClellan have thought of all this just on the back of his disastrous repulse from before Richmond? Why but that his own heart told him, "This rosewater style of soothing the Rebellion has proved a failure? The loyal States cannot endure it much longer. Even the President, with all his Kentucky prejudices, is outgrowing it. You must bully him, or he will repudiate it and try a sterner policy." If it was not this that prompted that singular letter, we know not what could have impelled it.

Gen. McClellan has been, is, and will be, the favorite commander of our forces of every open sympathizer with the Slaveholders' Rebellion. Whoever in the loyal States hopes that Jeff. Davis may yet triumph over our armies insists that McClellan is the man of all men to command them. Whoever holds that we ought not to subdue the Rebels insists that we should have done much better had McClellan been retained in command. These, we can understand; but the partisans of McClellan who *don't* vote for Judge Woodward, Gov. Seymour, and Vallandigham, are too deep for us. Can it be that they comprehend themselves?

REBEL DISTRESSES.

A correspondent of *The Cincinnati Commercial* gives an interesting statement of a conversation with a spy who recently returned from a four months' tour through Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia. The account has rather more than the usual air of veracity, and touches on points of real importance.

The severity of the discipline in the Rebel ranks has long been known. It now appears that there is a regularly organized system of *espionage* in every regiment, by help of which the expression of Union sentiments is prevented or savagely punished on discovery. Only the bayonet helps the soldier in the ranks. His pay is fifty-five cents a month in gold. He is cut off wholly from family and home; and, if allowed at times to write, is never allowed to receive, letters. Such a system is enforced because of the universal distress among the families of the soldiers—a distress so terrible that the prostitution to which the women are driven as a last refuge from hunger is common enough to be the subject of a hideous merriment. There are bread riots, but they must not be spoken of in the press; but the soldiery learn it. The property of the poor is mercilessly seized for the use of what is called the Government, but the property of the rich is spared so far as possible. Why not? It is a war of aristocracy against democracy, meant to concentrate political power in the hands of a minority, and to put the white laboring classes about on a level with the black.

In the army which Bragg commanded there is universal suffering from insufficient supplies, and a wide-spread disaffection to the Rebel cause as well as discontent with their privations. We hear from time to time of desertions in large numbers to the Union ranks, but they must be greatly exceeded by those who take refuge in the hills and woods in organized bands. A life of irregular hardship and voluntary exposure is preferred to a military tyranny which scarcely supports the soldier whom it condemns to a repulsive duty. These irregular bands have frequent conflicts with the parties sent in pursuit of deserters, and are as often as not victorious. Indeed, the evidence is that the cavalry and conscript officers are "sure to get the worst of it." What can be the effective strength of an army thus starved and depleted? [illegible] Carolinian is looked on with suspicion. The sentiments of *The Raleigh Standard* are the sentiments of the majority of the people of the State. Even in South Carolina the poorer classes are Unionists. Taking these statements with due allowance, it is still evident that the dull brains of the "white trash" and the slow intelligence of even the better rank and file in the army, are beginning to be penetrated with the conviction that the success of the Rebellion must be more ruinous to them than any possible defeat.

Of course, it is easy to invent or to exaggerate such accounts as those of *The Commercial*, but they come too frequently and from too many disconnected sources to be put wholly aside. Nobody thinks it worth while to say that there are bread riots in the North, or that soldiers' wives are driven to prostitution for support, or that our armies are on quarter rations. Equally beyond misrepresentation is the popular sentiment for the Union. But in the South, and in all quarters of it, are the signs daily more numerous which foretell the approaching crash. Built on a lie and sustained by gigantic frauds and inhuman cruelties, the Rebellion, which therefore from the beginning was doomed to failure, does at last see its end visibly approaching.

It is well known that New-York, controlled by Gov. Seymour, has denied to her colored citizens the right to enlist in a regiment under the State banner. But since the Secretary of War gave permission to summon them to arms, the patriotism and generous spirit of the negroes has been strikingly shown. The regiment was authorized from Washington, under the name of the 20th U. S. Colored Volunteers, on the 3d of December last. On the 31st of the same month, just four weeks afterward, it had its full complement of 1,010 men.

Throughout the State there is great enthusiasm among the blacks. In some of the Eastern Counties men are offering themselves in squads of ten and twenty together, and at the central office, No. 350 Fourth street, in this city, a colored pastor appeared yesterday with the greater part of his congregation. There are already 150 men recruited toward another regiment.

A "PECULIAR INSTITUTION" IN IOWA.—Among the curious phases of Iowa Society is the "Amanna Society," situated in Iowa County, twenty miles west of Iowa City. From *The Muscatine Journal* we glean the following facts relative to this community. It says:

"It numbers 800 members, and is divided into seven villages. It is governed by trustees elected by all the members of the Society. The Society owns 20,000 acres of land in one belt. They have a large stock of horses, sheep and cattle—700 head of cattle, 12,000 head of sheep, and a large number of horses; also, 2,300 acres of land under cultivation. They are engaged to some extent in manufacturing, and have a good flouring and saw-mill, and a large woolen factory in successful operation. They card, spin, weave and full all kinds of woolen goods, running twelve looms, nine narrow and three for weaving broadcloth. Their machinery is of the most perfect kind. They will work up this season from 5,000 to 6,000 bales of wool. The members of the Society are all of a religious order. Everything moves on in perfect harmony. When necessary, the women aid in out-door work. We saw twenty in one corn-patch, all at work. In the same field eight teams were plowing. The Society is destined to become wealthy.

FROM CHARLESTON.

Two New Rebel Iron-Clads Nearly Ready in Charleston Harbor—Charleston Set on Fire by Our Shells—Obstructions Washed Up by the Storm—Description of their Appearance—Shoulder-Hitters versus Shoulder-Straps.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Jan. 7, 1864.

If "imitation be the sincerest form of flattery," as has been oft asserted, the magniloquent Mallory must have been adapting himself of late to the theory and practice of "soft sawder," with a view to the beguilement of our great Yankee nation. For now, in Charleston Harbor, just out of reach of the Morris Island batteries, are visible two new Rebel iron-clad ships, in a forward state of construction, so closely imitated from the New Ironsides and the Dunderberg as to leave no doubt that the Rebels have reduced to practice the celebrated military maxim of the Romans, which advises belligerents to learn even from their enemies.

One of these iron ships-of-war was announced lately as having been in view. It is evidently intended, like the New Ironsides, for a "broadside" ship, and is constructed to carry four guns of immense power and caliber on each side. Another monster is announced by our lookouts as being built on the model of the "ram;" and the general contour of the work, as it proceeds, assimilates to the shape of the Dunderberg, as that ship has been drawn and described by the daily and illustrated papers of New-York city.

Three powerful iron-clad ships are known to lurk in the waters of Charleston Harbor, hiding behind the forts, to strike us at the most critical time, and in the most vulnerable place. The forward condition of their two companion-ships would seem to promise for our delectation a lively time, not long to be deferred.

Charleston takes fire and burns apace from the effect of the bombardment. So accurate has practice made the gunners in Forts Strong, Chatfield and Putnam, that they can drop their shell into any part of the city that is within range. The batteries so unwisely built by P. T. Beauregard, "General," etc., to draw upon the city the fire of Gen. Gillmore's forces, have been abandoned. In future, rebels will be apt to remember that cities containing forts, guns and forces within their inhabited limits, will be considered as exempt from the privileges accorded to the locations of non-combatants, and will be fired on—for the sake of the offensive or defensive appliances they contain.

On Sunday morning last, fires were noticed in two places in the city. Eventually, nearly all of the nest of vipers once known as Charleston, will be burned, and the demented knaves who brought on this war, in order to destroy the Nation, will find themselves with no other dwelling than that which they may share with the bats and owls.

The fires in Charleston always spread, and burn for hours at a time. Last Sunday they lasted eight hours.

In the Quartermaster's possession on this island are great masses of the "obstructions" with which the beach has for some time past been lined, to the great impediment of locomotion and transportation. In addition to the huge rafts and linked railroad bars, described in my letter of the 3d November (published on the 9th), are immense beams, squared on four sides, to fit into clamps of wrought iron. The intention seemed to be that these clamps should fit loosely around the beams, to allow them "play." The bar iron of which they are wrought is 1½ in. wide, and ½ in. thick, and is of excellent quality. To the clamp is attached an iron ring-bolt, strong and massive, intended to bear the weight and strength of the railroad bars. Thus, it appeared that each alternate bar was affixed to a clamp and ringbolt. The intermediate bar was linked or hinged to the extremity of the next. The squared timbers were evidently intended to support the bars, suspended in the water beneath them. Thus, rafts made of four squared timbers, fifty feet long and at least fifteen inches in diameter, either way, were lashed transversely to four pine "sticks," or perfect trees. These formidable rafts, secured by strong lashings and chains to each other, stretched across the North Channel of Charleston harbor. They only gave way to the constant swaying and surging of the tempestuous waves; but, once loose, the great currents and high tides brought them to us, and cast them like mere drift-wood at our feet.

The beams, now lying in the yard of the Quartermaster's store on Morris [illegible] and through. The far-famed worms of the Euxine are not more destructive to vessels than are the wrigglers of these waters. Wherever a little copper sheathing [illegible] of a timber ship, the worms get in, and work through; after them the water manages itself. Leaks and foundering are the next consequences in strictly natural series.

In one mass of obstruction hauled away from the beach of Morris Island, are 16 bars of T-iron-rails, each 20 feet in length. So great was the weight of the mass that the bars to which the hawser was attached were bent to a curve of about 25 degrees. The hawser, a [illegible] one of six inches circumference, was stretched [illegible] in hauling out of the tide-water the mass I have described. Before the other obstructions can be removed, the drifting sands will bury them, and they will be lost for ever.

The obstructions being removed by natural causes, nothing now prevents the taking of Charleston whenever the Admiral wills it.

The Navy is chafing with impatience at the inaction in which they have been so long kept. Every officer but one is eager to prove that the prowess of the sea service is not a thing of the past. Delays are dangerous. While the enemy is left at liberty to build his iron-clad vessels in security quite within range of the guns of our fleet, the sailors and officers on our ships, lying at anchor, are becoming dispirited by the odium attaching to their branch of the service. They have seen the triumphs of their brothers-in-arms ashore, and naturally envy the Army in the possession of a commander who knows what to do and how to do it. Had the combined land and sea forces in this department been under the direction of Gen. Gillmore, the siege of Charleston would have resulted in its capture three months ago, or earlier.

It is generally understood now in that department, that the reason alleged for the present inaction of the fleet is the presence of the three iron-clad ships in the Rebel possession, now afloat. Two others, more formidable, are building. Is it possible that the navy will be better prepared at any future time to resist five iron ships than it now is to encounter but three?

P. S.—12 M.—Information just received at headquarters has been imparted to me that there are three new iron-clad ships now building in Charleston. Two of these are fashioned on the plan of the Dunderberg.

In the Quartermaster's Department on Morris Island and elsewhere, are numerous laborers, hired to work on docks, and to load and unload vessels. These civilians are usually brought from New-York, and among them are many of such bad subjects as made themselves notorious in the July riots. They receive $30 per month and such rations and quarters as are given to soldiers. In taking service under the Government, in a military department, and under the supervision of military officers, they subject themselves to martial law. As a class they are very unruly and vicious; although a few may be designated as good, worthy laboring men. A project was lately brought to light among these people to organize a mutiny, and to "strike." Their object was, in many instances, to get home and sell themselves for substitutes. Very few of these laborers are fit to become soldiers. The proportion of those physically exempt from conscription is large. Indeed, some are unfit for laborer's duties, being too young, or weak, sickly men, languid, listless.

One of the excellent citizens has lately made known to Maj.-Gen. Gillmore the story of his wrongs. I append a literal transcript of the document transmitted to headquarters by Mr. McCaulay, whose singularly appropriate baptismal name is Jeremiah. It may be interesting to his friends to know that Mr. McCaulay's services are considered as worthless to the Quartermaster; but he is retained "in office" because a precedent is not to be made for the cancelment of contracts for six months' services, after the expiration of only half of such term.

MORRIS ISLAND, Dec. 19, 1863.

To Gen. A. GILLMORE.

SIR: I beg most respectfully to solicit to you the following, hoping to meet with your kind approbation. Having made a agreement for three Months to serve the United States as Laborer which term will shortly expire when I am told by Captain J. A. Burns—in command here that I most serve six months which I am not willing to do without acquainting you of the gross imposition, and also I can swear that I have not got any potatoes since I came here as we are to get Soldier's Rations. Hoping you will cause justice to be done to mankind and waiting for a reply as soon as possible.

I am your verry humble servant,

JEREMIAH MCCAULAY.

A. GILLMORE, General, &c., &c., Foley Island.

Indorsements on above:

H. Q. Department South Folly Is. S. C., Dec. 27, 63.
Referred to Capt. Dunton, A. Q. M.
Q. A. Gillmore, Maj.-Gen.

OFFICE CHIEF ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER FOR FOLLY AND MORRIS ISLANDS, FOLLY ISLAND, Dec. 27, 1863.

Respectfully referred to Capt. J. A. Burns, A. A. Q. M., who will please see that "justice is done mankind," but without interfering with the "exigencies of the service."

The laborers were all hired for the period of six months; and only good behavior will discharge them at the end of that time.

"Grumblers" and unruly men will be retained twelve months. Respectfully, A. T. DUNTON,
Captain and A. Q. M., Chief A. Q. M. for Folly and Morris Islands.

The civilian laborers in the military service in this Department are very kindly used. They are allowed daylight hours of rest, in lieu of all night time, during which the exigencies of the service require them to labor. Their rations, quarters and medical attendance are all the objects of peculiar care and supervision. Competent mechanics among them are elevated to the pay of $3 per day, with rations, quarters, &c. The "grumbler," whose letter has been so well replied to as above, is a fair specimen of his class.

DRUNKENNESS IN THE ARMY.

Gen. Gillmore, disgusted with the growing evils of intoxication among his officers, has issued an order making a salutary example of one of the "hardest cases" yet indurated by whisky. G. B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Dec. 29, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 115.—First Lieut. and Adjt. B. H. S. Rekiman, Independent Battalion New-York Volunteers, having publicly exposed himself in a state of gross intoxication on the cabin floor of the U. S. transport Ben Deford, while passing from Stono Inlet to Hilton Head, S. C., on the 15th inst., and again on the same day upon the pier at Hilton Head, is hereby dismissed from the service of the United States, subject to the approval of the President.

By command of Maj.-Gen. Q. A. GILLMORE.
ED. W. W. SMITH, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Loss of Six Lives in the Surf—Destruction of a Blockade-Runner.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ON BOARD FLAG-SHIP PHILADELPHIA, Charleston Harbor, Jan. 7, 1864.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, while carrying dispatches to the flag-ship Philadelphia, a boat's crew attached to the United States steam-tug Clover, were swamped. The plug had become displaced, and the crew were so busily engaged in watching the heavy sea through which they were pulling, that they did not perceive their danger until the boat was sinking from under them. Acting-Master's Mate D. Lee, of the United States steam-tug Geranium, seeing the accident, pushed off to the relief of the drowning crew. When within a few boat's length his boat was overturned by the surf of the breakers. Another boat from the United States tug-boat Oleander, under command of Acting Master's Mate A. P. Bashford, met the same fate. A third boat, from the Philadelphia, flag-ship, going to the rescue, was also swamped in the breakers. Acting Master Hafford, in the Admiral's barge, at last picked up the surviving men. The names of those lost are as follows:

FROM TUG-BOAT CLOVER—M. Davis, Master's Mate; —— Miller, seaman.

FROM TUG-BOAT OLEANDER—Frank and Benjamin Brown, seamen.

FROM TUG-BOAT GERANIUM—George Russell, ship's boy.

Some of the bodies, washed ashore on Morris and Folly Island, have been decently interred.

On Jan. 1, the U. S. steamship Leipsic landed a field piece and 50 men at Murrill's Inlet, S. C., about 60 miles north of Charleston, and, in spite of 200 Rebel cavalry drawn up in line at a short distance, destroyed a schooner, laden with 150 barrels turpentine and pitch, awaiting an opportunity to run the blockade. The Leipsic brought away 13 "contrabands," men, women and children, among them an old negro who stated he was father of 20 children. His young wife (the fourth of a series) was with him. He story was "De massa said to me: 'Heah's a house and plenty to eat and a nice young ooman! Now you fill up de place with little nigs—mighty quick! Dats is all you hab to do! Now do it.' And I hab did it, Massa Yankee!" Yah-he-ha! Judging from his swarm of woolly-head progeny, he certainly had obeyed the precept of scripture "increase and multiply," etc., as given him vicariously by his secessionist owner.

The schooner captured had run the blockade from Nassau into Murrill's Inlet last April, and been lurking there ever since, awaiting an opportunity to run out again, closely watched by our blockading vessels. Some time since, two boats' crews from the U. S. steamship Perry and another vessel were captured by the Rebels at this place. Retaliation was made by the descent above described. G. B.

New-Year Among the Soldiers.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Jan. 7, 1864.

New-Year's Day was celebrated here in true New-York style, by a grand jubilee in the camp of the 47th Regiment New-York Volunteers, Col. Henry Moore, the occasion being a reception and banquet to the officers and men of the 48th New-York. These two regiments came down with the original Expeditionary Corps under Gen. Sherman, and were for some time brigaded together. The taking of Fort Pulaski separated them, as the 48th were sent to garrison that place, while the 47th took possession of Edisto Island, and afterward participated in the unfortunate campaign under Gen. Benham, on James Island. Both regiments were subsequently called into service on Morris Island, under Gen. Gillmore, but never came within speaking distance of each other; for while the 48th were in the memorable but disastrous charge on Fort Wagner, and suffered severely there, the 47th only arrived on Folly Island the subsequent day, and [illegible] sent down to Hilton Head, as a part of Gen. Seymour's brigade, to take a part in the expedition planned against Savannah (so rumor says), and were surprised one morning by the arrival of the 48th, foot-sore and weary, after marching in from the other end of the Island. Before the officers of the 47th knew anything of the matter, each company of the regiment had cooked coffee, and with a bountiful supply of fresh bread, had carried the refreshment over to their corresponding company letter in the 48th. In return, the latter invited their friends to a Christmas dinner, which passed off in handsome style; the Brooklyn boys trimming their camp off in a beautiful manner, and making a set-out that would have shamed some places where edibles and comestibles were more readily procurable. The boys from New-York resolved to return the compliment on New Year's day, and hence the jubilee of which I write.

The 47th's camp was decorated in magnificent style. Each company street had arches—varying in style of architecture—erected at both ends, while down the center a sort of bower of evergreens ran, underneath which the tables were spread. Transparencies, with mottoes of welcome and friendship, were abundant, and not only Hilton Head, but all the adjacent islands, had been placed under contribution to minister to the appetites of the soldiers and their civilian guests. At 12 o'clock a deputation of one sergeant and six men from each company, headed by our splendid post band—an institution for which we are indebted to that thorough soldier and genial gentleman, BRIG.-GEN. ALFRED H. TERRY—marched over to the camp of the 48th, where the different companies fell into line, and marching by the flank both escort and guests came to the 47th headquarters, where each filed by the right into the quarters of their hosts. Of the cheering, speech-making, and good-fellowship generally, that was then exhibited, I need not speak—suffice it to say that it was such only as New-York and Brooklyn boys, tried comrades and true Union soldiers, could make.

The officers of the 47th gave a banquet to their brother officers of the 48th, to which all gentlemen of military rank or social position on the island were invited. A splendid dining-room had been improvised by the erection of some nine hospital tents—kindly loaned for the occasion by Surgeon Semple of the General Hospital—thus making a room 130 feet in length by 15 feet in width. The whole length of the saloon was splendidly draped with flags, while on canvas streamers were painted the names of "Gillmore," "Seymour," "Barton," "Green," "Moore," and other officers well known in the Department. At 3 o'clock the company sat down to a dinner where nothing that could tempt the appetite or please the fancy was wanting. Col. Moore presided, with Brig.-Gen. Seymour on his right and Col. Barton (commanding post) on his left, while along the table could be noticed Maj. Freeman of the Pay Department, Lieut.-Col. Pinneo of the Medical Department, Dr. Johnson U. S. A. (surgeon to the Freedmen), Capt. Ford of the Commissary Department, Capt. Hays (and ladies) of the Quartermaster's Department with many other military gentlemen, and Ralph Trembly, esq.; Edward Hilton, esq.; Hugh Flanley, esq., and all of the prominent civilians of the post, accompanied by their ladies. Speeches were made by Brig.-Gen. Seymour, Col. Barton, Lieut.-Col. McDonald (47th), Lieut.-Col. Pinneo, and others, while Col. Moore presided with his usual affability and good nature. At about 9 o'clock an adjournment was made to the Post Commissary Building, the large hall of which had been fitted up as a ball-room, and there, with the smiles of the ladies and the assistance of the band, everything passed off in the most agreeable manner, until the near approach of "reveille" warned the revellers that it was time to bid adieu to each other for a time, and bring to a close the festivities of New-Year's Day, 1864.

The whole of this interchange of kindly feeling between the officers of the 48th (all of whom, headed by Lieut.-Col. Strickland, were present) and the 47th, together with the entire body of the enlisted men of both commands, cannot but have a favorable effect upon the cause we are engaged in, especially as the two regiments are now in Gen. Seymour's brigade, and will have a chance of fighting side by side. To the Committee of Arrangements—Capts. Moore, Pell, MacDonald, Arnold, and Newman—too much praise cannot be awarded for the very handsome manner in which everything was carried out. C. A. E.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

Condition of Loudon—Destruction of Property—Rebel Wounded and what they Thought—Rebels Taking the Oath—Bridge and Steamboat-Building—Communication Interrupted—A Capture—An Arrival—Practical Emancipation.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LOUDON, East Tennessee, Dec. 23, 1863.

It is now about two months since the forces of Gen. Burnside evacuated Loudon, falling back to Knoxville with the body of the army, and leaving the 9th Corps at Lenoir's Station as a corps of observation. Upon revisiting the place to-day I have learned many interesting facts, from observation and from inquiry among the citizens, touching the Rebel campaign in these parts, which may supply a somewhat important omission in the history of events immediately preceding and following the siege of Knoxville.

The ravages of war are no where more apparent than in and around this place, which long since was made famous by the successive occupation of the Rebel and Union armies, and by the battles and skirmishes which have occurred in this vicinity. The place, as is well known, is situated on the Tennessee River, where the splendid bridge of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, now destroyed, formerly crossed that stream. The town had, before the war, between 500 and 600 inhabitants.

When Gen. Burnside's army left in October, not over 100 citizens remained. Ever since that time the little place has been a desolation. Most of the dwellings, being without inhabitants, have been occupied by troops who have burned all the inclosures, the weather-boarding of the houses themselves, and almost everything that would make fuel. Most of these once comfortable houses, which formerly afforded shelter to peaceful families are now without doors or windows, and are pictures of desolation. The farms, within a distance of several miles, have been stripped of all fencing, the stock killed or driven off, and the last bushel of corn or wheat in many cases taken for the uses of the army.

It will take years in the present and prospective scarcity of laborers to restore these once thrifty farms and estates to their former condition. The late owners or occupants may return to their homes, but it will only be to repeat the toil of months and years, which gave value to their property. Even this will not be done until assured peace promises the necessary reward and security of their labor. The carrying away of all the working animals, horses and oxen, will render next to impossible for them to make crops, even if there should be the ordinary inducements for them to plant. Seed will also be scarce. The Rebel Gen. Vaughan, who has commanded here most of the time since we left, took little or no pains to restrain his soldiers from committing depredations, and in no case made restitution, and seldom paid for anything taken or destroyed.

I wish I could add here, truthfully, that some portion of our officers and men did better, yet I cannot. The 11th Army Corps, who marched through the place on their way to reënforce Knoxville, taxed the poor people heavily by their acts of plunder. Their excuse was, that, having marched without rations or baggage, their necessities were urgent. Gen. Howard's officers gave some receipts, and paid only for a small part of what they took, at the time Bragg fell back from before Chattanooga, and our forces took possession of the communications in the rear of Longstreet. A large amount of Rebel clothing was stored in the Presbyterian Church. A great quantity of flour and meal was stored in various places in the town. The railroad depot was well filled. Three engines, each with a long train, making probably fifty cars, filled with ammunition, leather clothing and provisions of all kinds, including several hogsheads of rice, had been run up to Loudon.

On the 2d day of December there was a general destruction of all this property—a quantity sufficient to have subsisted and supplied the Rebel army for several weeks. Hundreds of boxes of crackers were thrown out and burned. The church, full of clothing, including the officers' baggage, was left to fall into Union hands, and a very poor use was made of it. The worst use which clothing can be put to in December is to burn it, I think, particularly when so many backs are naked and so many feet bare. A small portion of it was distributed and the remainder made a bonfire of. A hundred trunks, probably, were piled up and burned—some of them of considerable value. The three locomotives, with their long trains of cars filled with property, were run off into the river. The crash was terrific, and shook the surrounding country. The cars were placed in line behind the three engines, but the immense mass of material filled up the chasm of about ninety feet to the river before the whole had passed over the abutment.

To make room for the remainder the whole mass was set on fire and rapidly consumed. When the flames had devoured the cars, the engines were piled upon the general wreck. The fire continued for nearly three days and nights, and during the first day and night there was a continued explosion of the Rebel shells which resembled the sound upon a great battle-field.

Their wagon train, some thirty in number, was partially destroyed, but Gen. Howard, upon his arrival, found enough of them left, in connection with some he took from the citizens, to make a pontoon bridge on which to cross his army over the Little Tennessee river. The flooring of the depot and the platforms were used as planks for the bridge.

During the siege of Knoxville, Longstreet sent his wounded and prisoners back to Loudon. The Methodist church was filled with prisoners from among soldiers and citizens, and the large hospitals and Campbell's house were used as hospitals. Many prisoners were sent to Madison, Ga., and the wounded who were able to move were sent to their homes; some still remain of the sick and wounded. There was no complaint of ill-treatment on the part of the prisoners while detained here. All who expressed any views upon the war seemed to regard their cause as hopeless. Multitudes declared or intimated they were fighting [illegible] the rear or the penalties of desertion.

Notwithstanding this, a great many in Vaughan's brigade ran off while he was staying in Loudon, and the night previous to his evacuation of the town they deserted in squads. The Rebel soldiers were down on Bragg. They accused him of tyranny and incompetency. Vaughan destroyed a considerable quantity of arms, sabers, &c., which he had not the men or transportation to remove. Hundreds of muskets were thrown into the Tennessee, and there are now piles of cavalry sabers lying in the streets which have been ruined by fire. Some citizens have fished up a great many guns from the river. The iron from the wreck of the bridge has been appropriated by some of the neighboring farmers, who carried it away by boat loads.

Capt. Wells of Col. Byrd's command, who has been acting as Provost-Marshal in this region, embracing Athens, Kingston, Loudon, &c., says he has administered the oath of allegiance to 1,800 Rebel soldiers, and about 900 citizens.

The arrival of our forces and the flight of the Rebels, have already been detailed in a previous letter. One of the fruits of our late victories will be the immediate rebuilding of the bridge over the Tennessee, and the restoration of our line of communication with Chattanooga. The Engineer in Chief is already engaged in obtaining material and employing mechanics and hands for the work. Six weeks are deemed a sufficient time to throw the bridge across, and lay the rails so as to permit the passage of trains. There are ten stone piers still remaining in a tolerable state of preservation. The abutment on the Loudon side is 90 feet above the river level; the river is about 1,700 feet in width.

Lieut. F. H. Clemens, of the Quartermaster's Department, is about to lay the keel of three large steamboat hulls at Kingston, to be used for transporting stores and supplies for the army from Chattanooga to Loudon. Here they can be transhipped and sent to Knoxville by train in two hours. The Lieutenant came down yesterday with the necessary orders to proceed in the construction of the boats. Timber of the best quality is abundant along the Clinch River. The hulls will be completed as soon as possible and sent to Chattanooga, where the cabins and upper works will be built, and the engines and machinery be put in. The boats will be 25 feet beam, and from 130 to 150 feet long. The channel of the river at Loudon is directly along the bank, where the cars and engines have been run off, and is now partly obstructed by these materials. It is believed, however, that a small steamer can pass through. At present the boats land below the bridge, where the cargo is discharged and put upon the cars for Knoxville.

DEC. 24.—The steamboat which was due here from Chattanooga two days ago has not arrived, and a large party of officers who are bound home upon leave, with some six paymasters of the army have been detained here in consequence under most uncomfortable circumstances. There are many conjectures as to what may have detained the boat. It is supposed that the sudden fall in the river, about six feet, may have left her aground upon some unlucky shoal; others that she may have been attacked by guerrillas at some place along her route, a line of impracticable length to guard, and possibly captured. We ought to hear from Kingston to-day, and learn the cause of the sudden interruption in this important line of communication.

I have just learned that Mr. Joseph Anderson, formerly of J. Anderson & Son, a large merchant at Loudon, Tenn., was captured by the Rebel cavalry on his way from Cincinnati during the siege of Knoxville, with some $10,000 worth of assorted goods. He had made his purchases in Cincinnati, and placed the goods in two large four-horse teams also purchased there for the transportation of the merchandise. He had got within 30 miles of Knoxville, on the Cumberland Gap road. The Rebels took everything, and refused him even a horse on which the old man might reach his home near this place. Mr. Anderson will be sadly remembered by R. & N. Dart & Co.; Stone, Starr & Co., and other large dealers in New-York, of whom he purchased largely in former years. Mr. Anderson is poorer by $20,000 by this misfortune, which falls heavily upon him at his advanced age in life. He has become of the largest merchants and one of the most upright in this part of Tennessee, and is a strong Union man.

P. S.—The steamer arrived at 12 o'clock bringing ammunition and quartermasters' stores—one comforting item being a small supply of blankets. A regiment, 3d Kentucky, Col. Dunlap, is stationed permanently here, for the purpose of loading and unloading the boat. The Chattanooga—that is the name of the steamer, a stern-wheel craft about 125 feet long by 25 feet beam—is a snug but not very handsome craft, well adapted to the navigation of the Tennessee. She draws only two feet and a half loaded. A number of officers returning to their regiments, and others bringing dispatches, were among the passengers. A larger number are here anxiously awaiting the departure of the boat for Chattanooga. Among these are Majors [illegible] A. Walker, Edwin Beecher, Eli Van Valkenburgh and Robert A. Haggerty, the latter of New-York, all paymasters of the army, who have completed the paying of the Army of the Ohio. They will be joined here by an extra train from Knoxville by Majors McDowell, Gen. Ballard, Kennon and Cravens. Major James E. Walker, who was left at Cumberland Gap to pay Wilcox's troops, has returned to Cincinnati.

These gentlemen brought over the mountains some three millions of dollars, nearly all of which has been disbursed. Their first three weeks at Knoxville were spent watching their piles of greenbacks with match in hand, ready, at any moment, when an emergency should require it, to burn the money, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. Happily that misfortune was averted, and many a family at home will be the sooner made happy by remittances from soldiers, husbands, and friends.

The boat will make Chattanooga in from 24 to 30 hours, where the passengers bound North will take the railroad for Louisville via Nashville.

We have by this arrival papers from Cincinnati and Louisville of the 17th and 18th.

I learn that some half a dozen boats will be employed upon this line at once, which will be an immense saving to the Government as against the tedious mode of getting supplies by wagon trains over the mountains, to say nothing of the liability of having our coffee and sugar "gobbled" by the Rebels. This line must be held by any and all means.

The weather to-day is warm and pleasant after three days of severe cold. E. S.

For the comfort of Major Bullock, 5th Kentucky Cavalry, one of Morgan's officers who did not escape from the Ohio Penitentiary with his leader, I give the following certificate:

OFFICE OF PROV.-MAR.-GEN. EAST TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 2, 1863.

By the 9th section act of Congress approved July 17, 1862, George, a black boy, late in the service of Robert Bullock, a Major in the Rebel army, is declared free, and will be unmolested by the military authorities of the United States.

By command of Brig.-Gen. S. P. CARTER, Prov.-Mar.-Gen. E. Tenn.
H. H. THOMAS, A. A. A. G.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

Southern Sentiments on the Amnesty Proclamation—Anti-Slavery Discussion in Tennessee—East Tennessee as a Separate State—Longstreet—Why Burnside did not Re-enforce Rosecrans—Rebel Raids—Fortress Grant.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 29, 1863.

One of the principal questions of the day is, How will President Lincoln's Amnesty Proclamation be regarded by the people of the South? Whatever tends to throw light on this question is necessarily of special interest. There are men in Chattanooga, who, if they are not themselves Rebel at heart, seem to understand how Rebels think and feel on most questions. They, moreover, seem to know pretty well what is going on outside of our lines, and some of them can, when they choose, tell you some things obtainable by no ordinary mode of communicating. They rank themselves, generally, as loyal men, and I suppose they are, after a fashion. This class, if they mean what they say, and I am inclined to believe they do, are heartily satisfied with the terms of the Proclamation, and say that, all through the South, just as soon as they can do it, the great mass of the people—especially the property-holders—will make manifest their willingness to accept them.

This property consideration—the property that is going to be saved, about which all question is to be put to rest as to confiscation—is an important feature in the case. The truth is, very few in the South do not know and feel that by rebelling a great wrong was done and a corresponding penalty incurred. As the prospects of the Rebellion have waned, the query in the minds of the property-holders has been about their property—how they were individually going to be affected when the grand smash came. Mr. Lincoln tells them if they throw up their hands it shall be even quits; and, as I have said, it is the belief of those who seem to be best informed hereabout that the mass to whom the Proclamation is really addressed will gladly come into the arrangement just the first moment they find themselves in a position to do so.

Of course, the protection they require must be given by our armies, and this will henceforth be an important feature of the advance into the Confederacy. The olive branch will not be less conspicuous than the sword in our future movements. It will necessarily be a long time before the terms of the Proclamation will be thoroughly known to the people of the South. The state of helplessness which has succeeded the late Rebel reverses has prepared the way for the Proclamation in the minds of all who have not resolved to sink or swim with the leaders, for whom there can be no terms.

I have seen several refugees lately from Georgia, some of them quite intelligent, who take this view of the case. They say that the Southern people were not prepared for such manifest justice, such fairness, such liberality. Of course, say they, the extensive slave-holders will kick against the Anti-Slavery clause; but then they will save their heads and their other property; and in this light the Proclamation opens to them the only way of escape.

Prisoners who, from their past connection with people of Georgia, and from their present means of judging, are able to give an intelligent opinion, do not doubt [illegible] so far as regards that State, particularly the northern part.

In Tennessee there is evidence that the Proclamation will be well received by sympathizers with the Rebellion, and even with what are left of those who gave it their active aid. The Nashville Press, the journal most favored by those classes, and which has been as rebellious as it dared, warmly approves of the Proclamation, and warns the people of Tennessee against committing the folly of rejecting its terms. I think the Proclamation knocks the legs from under what there was left of local rebellion in this State. Here there is a well-defined Anti-Slavery sentiment, independent of the Proclamation. There is not only perfectly free discussion of the question, but it is discussed on its merits, as a question of humanity and interest. Tennessee to-day is in the [illegible] of Kentucky, and I would trust her loyalty under almost any test.

Eastern Tennessee will early move for a separate State organization, and she will get it. She has little in common with the rest of the State, and nature has defined her boundaries and distinctive characteristics too plainly to be mistaken. She could no more be made to be a Slave State than she could be made to [illegible] the Rebellion. Her natural alliance is with the northern portions of Georgia and Alabama, and ultimately this connection will be consummated. Northern and Eastern capital and enterprise will find their way hither almost as a matter of course. In mineral riches this new State would abound to an unparalleled extent, while in agricultural resources it would take high rank.

Longstreet does not seem to have gone as fast or as far out of Tennessee as was first supposed, and it may be that some part of the late campaign there will have to be gone over again. Some recent movements of our troops were probably predicated on false impressions on this point. The Rebel General is at present subsisting his force on supplies collected by Burnside for our own. Perhaps as soon as these are gone he will be off. So long as he remains where he is, his force will be just so much strength saved from the army to which it belongs, and yet itself incapable of striking a blow. It is true that Lee can reënforce Longstreet, but it is hardly probable that he will attempt a game so hazardous. Our present force in Eastern Tennessee is believed to be abundantly sufficient to hold Longstreet in check, should he attempt to advance. Gen. Foster is in command.

Whoever has read the elaborate report of General Halleck must have been struck with the apparent strength of the case made out against Gen. Burnside, for not moving down from Knoxville to the support of Rosecrans, just previous to the battle of Chickamauga. According to Gen. Halleck's showing, Gen. Burnside was guilty of a very grave offense, which should not be overlooked. This, however, is but one side. General Burnside will probably have something to say in his own behalf. It will be recollected that when Rosecrans, with his line extended sixty miles, commenced his "grand flank movement," after Bragg evacuated Chattanooga, Halleck telegraphed Burnside to move down from Eastern Tennessee to the support of Rosecrans, which he did not do.

According to this showing, a heavy responsibility rests on Burnside. We may safely assume that he is too good a soldier to disobey an order deliberately, or to decline to render succor when needed, and when it it is in his power to afford it. I do not know what will constitute the whole defense against this charge brought by Halleck, but I understand that Gen. Burnside will be able to produce a dispatch from Gen. Crittenden, inspired if not directly dictated and authorized by Gen. Rosecrans, dated the 9th of September, ten days before the battle, telling him that Bragg, having abandoned Chattanooga, was retreating into Georgia as fast as he could; that Rosecrans was pursuing, and that his right was already in Rome.

The dispatch furthermore conveyed to Gen. Burnside the idea that he was not needed; hence, although he was then on his way to join Rosecrans, he turned about and commenced the dash toward Lynchburg, Va. Now this was the dispatch that worked the mischief. Rosecrans's right never was within 40 miles of Rome, and was then much further off. Rosecrans may have thought his right was then there; but the mistake was only one of a series which he committed about that time. I presume this dispatch will play an important part, not only in the defense of Gen. Burnside, but in the history of the famous Chickamauga campaign.

The Rebel cavalry make frequent dashes on our line in the neighborhood of Cleveland, and in one or two instances have come within a short distance of Chickamauga Station, on the line of Bragg's late retreat, and in one instance captured some half a dozen cavalry pickets. This audacity will of course produce the necessary measures on the part of Gen. Thomas to clear the country to the extent our present operations require. Forrest is reported to be at the head of 7,000 Rebel cavalry on our right, with the view of menacing the line of communication with our base. He is a much more ugly customer than Wheeler, who is a mere marauder—never fights, but plunders and runs.

It is evident that the Rebels have chosen the harrassing policy, with an eye to cutting off our supplies. This will give employment for our cavalry in certain localities.

The fortifications in and about Chattanooga, I understand, Gen. Thomas contemplates giving, as a whole, the name of Fortress Grant. The different Forts will be named after heroes, living and dead, in compliment to their services and bravery. C. D. B.

THE POTOMAC ARMY.

A Year's Review.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Jan. 1, 1864.

He who essays a truthful, connected and complete review of the year just past, is confronted at the outset with the antagonisms of what he knows of and about this Army, and what he knows to be the popular impression among the people at home concerning its performances. Nevertheless, within the brief space your ever-crowded columns may admit, allow me, in a calm, unbiased, though necessarily hurried manner, to "vindicate its history."

On the 25th of January Gen. Joseph Hooker relieved Gen. Burnside of his command, and although its announcement was received with various degrees of satisfaction and misgiving by the officers and men, he had not been in his position a single week before there were everywhere in the Army abundant and unmistakable evidences that "he was born for command."

All the little "shiftlessnesses" and evasions of duty, in and about camp, on drill or review, were reached, and every disorganizing influence, whose sure tendency was toward general demoralization, was reached and remedied. The health, the comfort, the enjoyment, and the physical and mental welfare of the men were looked after as they never had been before, and the whole Potomac Army, from a dispirited, dejected aggregation of men, became infused with the earnest zeal of their new commander, and the potency of his own enthusiastic and impetuous nature never shone so brightly as when it lifted these noble men up out of the sloughs of their desponding and the sloughs of Virginia mud which environed them at Falmouth. His orders for soft bread, vegetable rations, regular pay, men to be served before officers, furloughs for meritorious conduct and the like, will ever cause the name of "Fighting Joe Hooker" to be remembered by the soldiers of the Potomac Army with affection and gratitude.

It may be safely assumed that the *morale* of the army had never been so satisfactory or so promising of results under any previous commander, so that when in the month of April the time came for active operations everything presaged success. General Stoneman was started off on a perilous yet entirely feasible mission with his cavalry, while Hooker with his main army crossed the Rappahannock and concentrated at Chancellorsville with a celerity and brilliancy of movement which has not been transcended in the whole history of the war. Lee was not only outgeneraled, but amazed at the achievement, for he was nearly surrounded, and a formidable cavalry force was in his rear, threatening his entire line of communication with his capital.

But our foes soon rallied their forces, and with that high generalship which has so often challenged our admiration, as well as execration that it should be prostituted to such ignoble ends, the battle of Chancellorsville was fought. We lost it. Strange and mysterious providence! With an army far their superiors, with every adventitious circumstance strongly in our favor, we were forced to retreat. It is true we were not routed, defeated, and driven back, but far worse, we needlessly threw away not only the possibilities, but all the probabilities of victory. Chancellorsville! so grand and promising in inception, so unaccountable and mortifying in its ending! Let us cover the memories of its heroic slain with the mantle of our deepest gratitude, while with Calvanistic faith we hide its sad recollection in the belief that "it was to be."

It soon became evident that our want of success at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville had not only emboldened the enemy to attempt the execution of a long-cherished plan of "Northern invasion," but had also satisfied him of the extreme peril of his position. He, therefore, soon started up the Rappahannock, occupied the gaps of the Blue Ridge, and pushed his army with all possible dispatch toward the full granaries of Maryland and Pennsylvania and their capital cities. Gen. Hooker found that the enemy was moving to the North, and northward of Harper's Ferry, and that the garrison there stationed would be of no practical utility. He knew, moreover, that the Rebel Gen. Lee had been very largely reënforced, and that our force should be correspondingly strengthened by every available man. Gen. Halleck insisted that our garrison at the Ferry should not be disturbed in any event, and, as he refused to yield the point, Gen. Hooker withdrew from the command of the army, and on Sunday, the 28th of June, Gen. Meade was appointed his successor.

Meantime Lee had crossed the Potomac near Williamsport, had occupied Carlisle and Chambersburg, and was rapidly advancing toward Harrisburg. His cavalry had swept around through Hanover and York to Wrightsville, where they were only prevented from crossing the Susquehanna by the destruction of the immense wooden bridge connecting Wrightsville with Columbia. On Monday, the 29th, our cavalry, which had been in almost constant skirmishing with the enemy since our departure from Falmouth, reported the probabilities of their making a stand somewhere in the vicinity of Emmittsburg, New-Windsor, Cashtown or Gettysburg, and on Tuesday, the 30th, our infantry encountered the enemy's advance, and pushed him back to the Gettysburg road. On Wednesday, the 1st of July, the preliminary arrangements were made for the "great battle of history," [illegible] cover the hard fought [illegible] tient, ever ready, ever enduring and stout hearted "Army of the Potomac" with lasting gratitude and glory. The details of Wednesday evening's fight and of Thursday and Friday's battles were fully reported in your columns.

Gettysburg was a hard, brave, stand-up fight—a decided success and victory! Never shall I forget the eloquent incident of a mild blue-eyed boy, whose light auburn hair covered a brow of scarce twenty Summers, as he lay mortally wounded on that field, and yet fully comprehending all that was going on about him—the advantage that we had won. As I hurriedly passed, I caught his eye, already beaming with unwonted luster of approaching dissolution, when he said, "We've given it to them this time—haven't we?" And scarcely had the words escaped his lips, when his spirit fled.

Again, I listened to the story of a begrimed cannon-[illegible], as he narrated with thrilling pathos, the [illegible] away of the mangled limb of another young man, the son of your own gifted whilom correspondent "S. W."—How he bore his inevitable doom with the fortitude of a veteran hero, buoyed up with the consolation that his young life had not been given up in vain. I saw there also, his stricken father overwhelmed with the unutterable anguish of his bereavement, and thought of the ten thousand others throughout the land, whom he typified in his way. And yet I could but feel that my poor friend Wilkeson would with many others throughout the land, respond with Cato 'mid their tears:

"Thanks to the gods! my boy has done his duty,
Welcome, my son! There set him down, my friends,
Full in my sight, that I may view at leisure
The bloody corpse and count those glorious wounds.
How beautiful is death when earned by virtue!
Who would not be that youth? What pity 'tis
That we can die but once to save our country!
Why sits this sadness on your brow, my friend?
I should have blushed if Cato's house had stood
Secure, and flourished in a civil war."

These were but passing incidents, but they go to show that those who fought and fell, died not without the instinctive consolation that their honor was vindicated—that whatever had befallen, or might befall, the Army of the Potomac, henceforth their courage and devotion to country and principle stood redeemed before the world. And a nobler pen than mine has devoted their sublime heroism in most eloquent phrase, to the admiration and gratitude of the ages.

All this must be impartial history record. And yet the exactions of truth demand the confession that the battle of Gettysburg was barren of all those decisive results which should have been secured by its fearful sacrifices. True our army was battle-worn, foot-sore, weary and half famished, yet had a single corps been left to succor the wounded and bury the dead, how gladly would the remainder have precipitated themselves upon the defeated and retreating foe.

It is not due to truth to say that our entire "following up," partook more of the semblance of some friendly escort, than a determined effort to annihilate a foe. And what shall be said of the crossing of the swollen river, where for the first time it seemed that Providence was interposing for us! All day on Saturday, Saturday night, Sunday, Sunday night and Monday, in a panic, lest we should attack was the disorganized mob of Lee pushed across Falling Waters. Inelegant as was the comparison, did not the President state the whole case, when he said, "it reminded him of nothing so much as a good old house dame 'shoo-shooing' her geese across a pond." That opportunities were lost none know better than our leader, and with the fact stated, we again fell back upon our Calvinistic theology.

Our safe and prudent following up of the retreating foe to Culpepper is known to all. Lee's intrenchment on the Rapidan, and his line via Grange Court-House, and our long and patient waiting during all the Fall months, are also matters of regretful history.

Next come the bright pages of Bealton, Bristow, and Brandy Stations, adding fresh renown to the army. Then our retreat to Centreville; our advance; the destruction of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad; then, brighter still, the record of Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford. Then follows another rest, and then our advance over the Rapidan, our return, and the humiliation of enacting one of the grandest comedies of the war.

But here, to-night, as these men stand shivering around their camp-fires, or on their weary rounds, a united, solid barrier of flesh and blood for the protection of the citadel of our nationality, I protest against the aspersion and the feeling, too often indulged, that the grand Army of the Potomac has been, and is, and ever will be, impatient of results. A nobler, truer body of men do not anywhere "keep step to the music of the Union." Never have they failed their leader in all that has been required of them. Let the country bless them with its profoundest gratitude, for—

"They are the watchmen by an Empire's cradle,
Whose youthful sinews show like Rome's; whose head
Tempestuous wears an ice encrusted cap,
Sparkling with polar splendor; while her skirts
Catch perfumes from the isles; whose trident yet
Shall awe in either ocean; whose strong hand
Freedom's immortal banner grasps, and waves
Its spangled glories o'er an envying world."

Thus I have endeavored to give you a connected and truthful narration of what has been done by this army during the past year, rapid and brief in detail though it necessarily be. At another time, I may indicate what, in the judgment of a close observer and one who most sincerely desires its completest triumph, might and should have been done by this army, and what yet may be accomplished for the glory of our national arms and the salvation of the Republic. BETA.

THE CHESAPEAKE AFFAIR.

Authentic Account of her Capture.

From The Toronto Leader, Jan. 5.

We have been permitted to make an extract from a private letter to a gentleman in this city from his brother, under whose authority, as an officer in the service of the Confederate States, the steamer Chesapeake was captured by the party of Confederates who took passage in her at New-York.

The writer is a gentleman who, from his position, is fully conversant with all the facts, and is of known truth and integrity. It will be seen that this statement contradicts the Yankee story (concocted doubtless with a view of obtaining the rendition of the prisoners at Halifax) that the engineer of the Chesapeake was shot down in cold blood. The letter is dated from Halifax, and the portion relating to the capture is to the following effect:

"Ere this reaches you the account of the capture of the Chesapeake will be old. I sent H—— to Richmond last May to procure me a letter of marque, that I might capture some Yankee steamers running between St. John's and Boston. After an absence of three months he returned, having gone only as far as Nassau, from whence he had written me 'a humbugging' letter, with which I was not satisfied.

"In November a man came to St. John's from Wilmington, under the assumed name of Parker, his real name being ——. He wanted to get charge of a ship. He was poor. I ascertained from him that at one time he had charge of the Retribution, and he showed me his papers as an officer in the Navy. I told him to remain quiet, and then I sent Braine to New-York to make a reconnoissance. He returned, and I went among a few friends who loaned me $885.

"I tried to get Parker to go to New-York, but he refused, so I raised 11 men and put them under charge of Braine. I wrote him his instructions. I then took Parker and went down the bay on the day we expected the steamer would be captured, and when the Chesapeake appeared in sight we went on board. The captain, passengers and crew were put on shore in a pilot-boat, with all their private property. The crew of the steamer were all armed with revolvers, and the engineer fired on the men first.

"I came up to St. John's, and ordered the vessel around here for the purpose of coaling and landing some freight. I came to Halifax by railroad, and met W—— and the other Confederate officers who had come on from Canada. They gave me eleven men, four officers, and two engineers; but the Government got 'wind' of the affair, and, in order that there should be no violation of the neutrality laws, they all went to Bermuda to await the arrival of the Chesapeake.

"In the meantime a storm came on and the steamer has been unable to get here. I have sent men to different ports to meet her. I hope she will be able to get coal, and if hotly chased will steam off for Bermuda. The affair has not cost the Confederacy a man or a cent, and it has frightened the Yankees out of their senses."

We have omitted names in the above for obvious reasons. The letter concludes with an allusion to some warlike operations with which the writer intended to enter in another and distant quarter should the Chesapeake scheme prove a failure, as it has probably done. With these we have nothing to do. The facts he states in the letter show that in the capture of the Chesapeake no violence was used further than what was necessary to make the capture. Whether it was in accordance with international law or not is a question that remains to be decided.

Halifax papers of the 24th ult. publish affidavits which go to prove the illegal and ruffianly conduct of the commander and crew of the Union gunboat Ella and Anna in the recapture of the Chesapeake, and their contemptuous violation of the British flag and British waters.

The writer appends the affidavit in full of the Captain of the British schooner Investigator, which simply amounts to this: When the Union gunboat Ella and Anna entered Halifax harbor, the Investigator was lying near the Chesapeake, but hoisted anchor immediately and hauled in nearer to shore. After the officers of the Ella and Anna boarded the Chesapeake, they sent a boat to board the Investigator, and search her for the escaped pirates.

The Captain of the Investigator complains of the rough conduct of the boarding party, and says that the officer in command, in reply to his inquiries as to his authority in boarding his vessel, pointed to a pistol in his belt and said that was his authority. The Captain was then asked if any of the pirates were on his vessel, and he told him there was none—that they had all gone ashore. Yet in the search, one was found secreted below, together with baggage and other articles taken from the Chesapeake!

MORE ABOUT THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MURDERS.

[illegible] for Congress.

From Our Special Correspondent.

DONGOLA, UNION CO., ILL., Dec. 25, 1863.

A few days ago I gave you a brief account of the murders of Messrs. Spence and Jacquard, by deserters, whom they attempted to arrest. This was done on the 10th. On the 12th the Union League in this county, when in council raised a fund of over $200, and a company of thirty men was organized to hunt up the murderers and bring them to justice, either by the help of the military or otherwise. Upon reaching the scene, Marshal I. N. Phillips, with a force, had commenced operations, and arrested eight or ten of those who confessed they saw the murder committed. Meanwhile, as many as a hundred men, from Pulaski and Alexander Counties, had come on, and altogether scoured the swamps in search of the deserters, but in vain. Their names are Kellers, and the settlement in which the deed was done contains many families of the same name. The League will wait to see what the military will do. All except one of the prisoners are held in jail in Cairo.

On taking testimony before the Marshal, the ones arrested, as well as many others, women and young folks, all agreed in the following statement: Spence and Jacquard came to Keller's house on the evening of the 9th, arrested the two young men, and all parties staid in the house till morning. Then the two officers told the deserters to follow, or as it seems they had guns, they ordered them to fire them off, which they would not do, but laid them down in the porch. Spence told them to follow them; both had gone out doors, when the deserters seized their guns, and beat them till they died. Now, as these witnesses were examined apart, and as they agree in every particular, it would seem that this must be the truth of the case, though it is surprising that the eight or ten men who confessed to be there should coldly look on, and afterward to run away, nor give any intelligence of the deed to any one.

It was only till next day, the 11th, that Mrs. Spence, who lives at Ullin, heard of the murder; when she came she saw Jacquard lying in the porch, and not out in the yard, where they said he was murdered. There were then many women in the house. She asked them three or four times where her husband was, but they answered not a word. She asked the men also, but got no reply, till at last an old man pointed to the end of the house, and on going round she found her husband lying by the chimney, an outside one. What a sight then met the eye of an intelligent wife, in this Christian land, and in the State of Illinois! There were four clean cuts, about four inches long, made through his skull, and there was a cut across what may be termed the cup of his breast, which went through to his back bone. The hogs had eaten out his brains clean, his eyes, nose, and tongue were gone, and they eat all around his neck-handkerchief. At first it was reported that he was all cut up, and so I stated to you; but this last account is true.

On Mr. Jacquard's head were several cuts, which seemed made with a hatchet. He was not wholly dead till his wife came, who lives in Metang.

From this it is as plain as the light of the sun that these witnesses lie, for no blows with guns could make such wounds. The truth probably is this: A little after dusk Spence and Jacquard left their horses at a man's by the name of Single. According to custom in such cases, one went to one door and one to another, so as to prevent escapes. Jacquard was about to enter, when the gang, lying in wait, set upon him. The night was stormy and dark. Spence, on going round the house to the back door, met the villains concealed in the corners made by the projecting chimney, when they killed him with a common ax. How many were engaged it is impossible to say, but that they were all banded together to lie there is not the least doubt. It is surprising what object they could have in lying, for they could as well have stated they were killed with axes as with guns. It is the old story. The record now is that within a year seven Union men have been killed in this county.

Now, I know all about the conditions of things which have resulted in this murder, and in the barbarity which permitted men, women, and children, for at least 12 hours, to step over one dead body, and let their hogs devour another one. The two deserters in question, about a year ago, made a murderous assault on me. So well did I know them—so well do I know them—that I had guns ready for them; and now, night or day, I am prepared to lay out a certain number, if I have only half a chance.

It will be highly instructive for the nation, and for members of Congress and other leading men, that I go to the root of the matter. The particular settlement in which this deed was done commences about a mile and a half south of my house, but to some degree extends all round me, for several of my neighbors rejoiced when they heard of the murders, and said the souls of Spence and Jacquard ought to burn in eternal hell.

Now to come to the point, the great majority of these people, are religious, and belong to various churches. Their preachers with very few exceptions, are laboring men, farmers and the like, and the pernicious doctrine of State rights is not so firmly established in any part of the South, as here in the one that Slavery is a divine institution, ordained of God, and that whoever advocates the freedom of the slaves is an impious, wicked man, deserving of death; and this doctrine always has been taught by the illiterate preachers. You will find men the most quick, honest, industrious and thrifty, believing this, and no argument can touch them. This even then, to their minds, is a hellish war—the young men were seduced into the army under the pretense of restoring the Union, but really to free the negroes, and it is right that they should desert.

Most truly has the Church been the "bulwark of American Slavery," and to her teachings are to be ascribed the most awful crimes that man can be guilty of, either to his fellow-man or to the angels, to Jesus, and to God. Hasten the blessed day, when of this ten times accursed system of American Slavery, "there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." E. C. M.

The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1864.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC is at length for sale,—our advance orders having mainly been filled. It contains the Returns of all the Elections held in loyal States in 1863 (very good-looking they are, too), with lists of the principal officers of the Federal Government; Members of both Houses of Congress (with their home addresses); the Acts of Congress at its last session (condensed); statement of the Cost of carrying on the Government for the four years; statistics of the Army, Navy, and Public Debt; the President's Proclamation of Amnesty; Vote of the House for Speaker and on Arming Negroes; the new European Complications; Members of the Rebel Government and Congress; Rebel Finances and Richmond Prices (the Finances rather low, but overbalanced by the Prices, which are high enough, in all conscience); Votes of Soldiers in 1863 by regiments and States; State statistics, and Vote by States in the last three Presidential Elections, &c., &c. We believe this Almanac will be worth any intelligent citizen's money, and that he will naturally want two copies—one for current use, the other for filing. (If any one has a file for the last twenty years to sell, we can procure for him double its cost.) Price, 15 cents per copy; ten for $1. $8 per hundred, at this office.

Those of our subscribers who send money by express will please prepay the express charges.

REBEL PROPOSITIONS.

The St. Louis Republican of the 12th inst. reports two propositions recently addressed by certain Rebel officers to the Federal Government, one from the east, the other from the west, side of the Mississippi. The former would seem to bear the shape of a purposed 'dicker' with the Federal authorities, whereby a large amount of Cotton belonging to the Rebel chiefs—or somehow impounded by them—is to be traded off for 'greenbacks'—in other words, for the means of supporting existence. But the other, and far more important ('if true') is, in substance, an offer by the Rebel Generals and Colonels west of the Mississippi to clear out, vanish, *vamose*, into or through Mexico, provided the Government will supply them with the means of so doing, by allowing them to ship and sell Cotton from the Red River country, and thus raise the wind required to waft them to some peaceful shore—at least, a foreign one.

The Republican is not likely to have invented such a story, and we believe it is substantially true. We have long felt that this Winter ought to witness the final and utter collapse of the Rebellion westward of the Mississippi, if not eastward as well. We know no reason why men enough should not be sent to Texas to overbear any possible resistance there, and so restore that State to the Union without further bloodshed. All that remains of the Rebellion in [illegible] Arkansas, and the Indian country, would thereupon vanish like the dew, reducing the dominions of Mr. J. Davis within a very narrow compass. With the enlistments and reënlistments now in vigorous progress, it will be a burning shame if our next 4th of July may not be celebrated by a reunited people, with no flag flying from the Susquehanna to the Rio Grande and Sacramento but that of the Union, no slave breathing its air, and no acre of its surface whereon the fundamental, vitalizing truth of the Declaration of Independence may not be proclaimed without fear and without reproach.

PRESIDENT-MAKING.

The "National Democratic Committee," we learn, have agreed on the 4th of July next as the *time* and Chicago as the place for holding *their* next National Convention. We heartily approve their choice. Chicago is a noble city—(we have attended two excellent National Conventions there, and ought to know)—and we trust there will be delegations present from most of the Slave States, whom we want to see what a city Free Labor has created out of nothing within the last thirty years. They will be open to new impressions; and Chicago and its vicinity will be a noble lesson to them. When we were first there in attendance on the River and Harbor Convention of 1847, the city was but a country village, while not one acre in every hundred of the region stretching from five to sixty miles from its post-office had ever been furrowed by a plow. Now that same radius contains not less than Half a Million People, while the city itself must have hardly less than Two Hundred Thousand. We shall be rearing such cities all over the Southern States soon after they shall have been delivered from the curse of Slavery. We heartily thank the National Committee for vibrating from Charleston to Chicago. The change is wholesome and significant.

Then the *time* is well chosen. The 4th of July is early enough to commence the next Presidential canvass, and we trust the Republicans and War Democrats will together be called to meet on that day. It is a good day any how, and we strongly hope that the Rebellion will have been so crushed by that time that we may begin to disband our Volunteers. Do let us all try to finish the War first and turn to President-making afterward.

A RACE OF PROPHETS.

Grass does not grow on Broadway. Its latest crop was harvested by the Knickerbockers and Van Tassells, and thencelorward it ceased to be indigenous. No ships are rotting at our wharves in idleness—none "drifting, filled with dead, to shores where all are dumb." The last man has not been seen, a moping fugitive, in any of our streets. The banks, with our other moneyed institutions, have not gone up; neither have the railroads gone down. Winter sends no keener shiver through the rags which alone were to clothe us. Famine has not sharpened our features; neither have the sans culottes been bawling through our streets the frightful demand of bread or blood. The fleets which lie at anchor in our harbor are the representatives of foreign Governments who sympathize with us. The hostile ones have not yet arrived—they are not even on the way to us. Sackcloth is at a discount; silks at a premium. Thanksgiving day comes oftener than aforetime; and as to what Christmas has been, consult the cash-books of the jewelers, the fancy stores, the booksellers, and the candy men. We eat as heartily and drink as copiously as ever. Dividends were never more consolatory, coupons never so abundant. It is certain that we still live.

Men are chronically prophetic, but prophecy is a peculiar outpouring of the South. If the seers of the old dispensation were few, the stiff-necked generations of the day discovered that they were at least to be depended on. Not so with the soothsayers of the new dispensation. Like their impudent predecessors of ancient times, no failure abashes them. No matter how completely one prediction may be proved a sham, a fresh one succeeds it. Ignorant and credulous, the masses adopt it and believe in it. Over every village press there is a presiding prophet—every grogshop has its crowd of such—the Rebel Congress is a body of prophets. Yet a consciousness of its impotent charlatanism never enters the Southern mind. What a catalogue of disclaimers we have already given—it will be longer at the next review. It is possible that, in the crowd of great events which have been jostling each other within three years past, some honest minds may have forgotten the predictions so continuously put forth by the bravos of rebellion. It is possible that some, despite their overshadowing absurdity, may have been duped into believing them. They were numberless and ferocious. From the foundation of the Government, the South had hectored and triumphed. It was natural that timid minds—not to speak of corrupt ones—should cower before the new wrath of the old bully, and believe that the threat would be enforced and the cloud of predictions fulfilled.

As we now realize their absurdity, so may we smile at the ignorance and folly which alone could have incited them. This city was to be ruined by ceasing to be the factor for the cotton-crop. The men who were growing rich by trafficking in Southern bills, the equivalents of cotton, sugar, rice and tobacco, were to be made idle by the cessation of Southern trade, and poverty was to follow. Our foundories, our machine-shops, all our diversified manufactures, were to be struck dead because that trade was to cease. We had relied upon the South for a market—it took everything, from an anchor to a goose-yoke. Grass was to grow in every street, imports and exports were to cease, ships were to rot inactive at the wharves, real estate was to become a drug, the entire community was to be made insolvent, all banking capital was to disappear in the wreck, and famishing mobs were to traverse the city demanding bread as the condition of abstaining from blood. New-England was to share in this carnival of ruin. It should no longer grow rich by glutting the South with its manufactures. Cotton would command all such from European centers, and at lower prices, as Free Trade would hereafter be a joint potentate. The whole North was to be destroyed.

These are but incidental figures sketched by slaveholding venom on the great tableau of Rebellion. The havoc thus predicted was looked for, prayed for, fought for, with malignant exultation. If the Slaveholders desired independence, they longed even more for Northern ruin. We must not only acknowledge them, but we must be beggared also. The wish being paramount, it was easy to prophesy in harmony. If not terrified by slaveholding bravado, we might be made to hesitate at the prospect of universal pauperism. But the delusion under which rebellion thus became crazed, was apparent to the North from the beginning. The result was to be dependent on a single issue—would the North share in the delusion and become equally a traitor to the Republic? If it remained loyal, it was evident that Northern manufactures could better sustain themselves, deprived of a Southern market, than could the South without their producers. The South sneered at the possibility of a blockade, but the North knew that it was coming. Her people never contemplated the consequences of *their* shutting out New-England, and of *our* shutting out all Europe. But they predicted the establishment of Southern manufactures as defiantly as they foreshadowed the destruction of ours. Yet, in the face of these insane predictions, from the first gun of Sumter to the present hour, every lying trick that treason can devise has been put in practice to smuggle into the South the products of those Northern workshops which were to have been depopulated three years ago. Then they were lofty and imperious. Now they are not only the beggars they sought to make of us, but lying ones in addition. A perjury is cheap that secures the smuggling of a handful of percussion caps. No false swearing, is too black to obtain an ounce of quinine. The dearth of Northern products compels the Southern women to remain at home or to go abroad in meaner stuffs than are worn by paupers in a Northern alms-house. Every intercepted letter of a Southern woman calls for clothing as a necessity, pins and needles as blessings, and bonnets as the greatest of mercies!

As these predictions have been falsified, so must be the hopes and expectations of those who made them. It is evident that the over-sanguine temperament of the South now feels discouragement proportioned to the extravagance of her anticipations. It is the over-sanguine who most quickly sink under reverses. But the defiant arrogance which so repelled the North is having its legitimate reward. The scornful sneer at Yankee Abolitionists would have some meaning in it, if the open hands were not held out with imploring energy to clutch at whatever Yankee industry may have to sell. The prejudice against Yankee wares is gone. Intervention is a failure, Europe has had a scorching experience of the closeness of the blockade, and Rebel authorities declare that not one blockade runner has reached a Southern port in a whole month. Hence foreign goods are unattainable, and hence the increasing return to the old dependence on the North. Ten years ago, it was a staple with the slaveholding demagogue that free-trade between North and South was enriching the former at the expense of the latter. But for three years there has been no such trade, and where is the South? Not provided for by Europe, not providing for herself, not provided for at all. During the whole of this interregnum, her main dependence has been upon clandestine supplies from us. As time passed, she found all other dependence futile, until now she leans wholly upon us, a ragged, pitiable, but criminal suppliant for necessaries which nothing but dishonest intercourse can bring to her. What a commentary is this condition of things upon the yet recent prophecies of her impetuous seers! What lessons of silence it should teach them for the future! What stores of wisdom it contains for the multitudes who became their willing dupes!

MEXICO.

We have this morning, through Mexican sources, an account of recent important events in that republic. A comparison of this account with the French report, which we published on Monday, will give a tolerably clear view of the present situation.

The French, and their Mexican allies of the Church party, have made, of late, considerable progress. They have occupied a number of important places—Guanajuato, the capital of the State of Guanajuato, of which Doblado is Governor; Morelia, in the State of Michoacan; Queretaro and Aguas Calientes, the capitals of the States of the same name. The French report even mentioned the capture of Guadalajara, next to Mexico and Puebla the most important city of the republic. This, however, is proved by the Mexican account, which is one week later, to be an invention. A portion of the Mexican allies of the French, consisting of 3,000 men, under Col. Rajos, had advanced toward the city, but they were totally defeated with a loss of 500 men and 800 horses. With a better success the combined Franco-Mexican troops met at Morelia, which town had been occupied by the traitor Marquez. Gen. Uraga, on December 17, made an attack upon the intrenched enemy, and was repulsed with a loss of 2,000 killed and wounded.

The next step, according to the French reports, will be the occupation of the whole State of Tamaulipas, an advance upon San Luis de Potosi, the seat of the National Government, and a march of Miramon upon Durango, from which State a considerable reënforcement of the invading army is expected. There is no longer any doubt as to the intention of Juarez to leave San Luis de Potosi. His family have already arrived in Monterey, in the State of Nuevo Leon, and he himself is likely soon to follow. The occupation of the State of Tamaulipas would involve the possession of the town of Matamoras and the southern banks of the Rio Grande, and thus bring the French army face to face with ours.

The French and their allies have now complete, or nearly complete, control of the States of Vera Cruz, Puebla, Mexico, Tlaxcala, Queretaro, Aguas Calientes and Guanajuato, together with an area of about 73,000 English square miles, and 3,500,000 inhabitants. They have, besides, gained a foothold in the States of Tamaulipas, Tobasco, Yucatan, Michoacan and Guadalajara. They hold as yet only a small portion of the territory of the republic (from one-ninth to one-eighth); but have already within their lines a majority of the population.

Reports continue to be circulated about the defection of prominent men from the national cause, especially about the defection of Doblado—a proof how highly the French value the services he rendered for the defense of his country. All these rumors prove groundless. Juarez, Doblado, and Uraga are as fully determined as ever to continue a guerrilla war and to wait for better times.

A letter has been received in San Francisco from Juarez, which frankly admits it to be impossible for the Mexicans to compete with the disciplined troops and artillery of the French, and the consequent necessity of confining themselves to a guerrilla warfare. Juarez, like the national party of Mexico generally, expresses in his letter the hope that the tide will be turned on the restoration of the Union, which he desires with all his heart. Then he thinks thousands of enthusiastic volunteers will find their way to Mexico to join in the common defense of the American Continent against the encroachments of a European Power.

There seems no longer room for doubt that the Mexicans alone cannot prevent the subjugation of their country by the French. Their military organization is too deficient, and they command neither the talent nor the means to remedy this evil at once. But the majority of the people seem to be held in subjection against their will, and so soon as either the Mexicans gain help from abroad, or the French are by other reasons compelled to withdraw, the new Imperial throne will not long withstand the rising of an indignant nation.'

Our Albany correspondent states that a petition to the President to put Postmaster Wakeman into the Custom-House in place of Collector Barney, has been signed by all the Union State Officers, the State Committee, and nearly every Union Member of the Legislature. The petition has been sent to Washington.

Delays in Newspaper Mails.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Having been informed that the impression prevails among the newspaper publishers of your city that the cause of the delay of New-York weekly papers reaching their destination in the West is caused by their lying over at this office an unusual length of time, will you allow me to say that this office has never failed under my administration to make prompt distribution of mail matter, both letter and paper, whenever they reach here on time. The cause of the delay, as far as I can ascertain, is owing entirely to railroads failing to connect, especially at Buffalo and Dunkirk.

I am very respectfully yours,
E. COWLES, Postmaster.

Post-Office, Cleveland, O., Jan. 5, 1864.

Important Decision—Rebel Prisoners Not Entitled to the Benefits of the Amnesty.

The following letter from Judge Holt to Judge-Advocate Dunn of the Department of the Ohio, decides an interesting and important question:

JUDGE-ADVOCATE GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1863.

Maj. W. M. DUNN, Judge Advocate.

On the receipt of your letter of the 22d inst. I conferred with the Secretary of War, in regard to the grave and important question it presents. From him I learned that this question had already been decided by the President himself, who holds that the amnesty offered by his proclamation does not extend to prisoners of war, nor to persons suffering punishment under the sentence of military courts, or on trial, or under charges for military offenses. Very respectfully your obedient servant,

J. HOLT, Judge-Advocate General.

The large engine-house of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad Company at Rutland, Vt., was destroyed by fire on Friday afternoon. Loss about $20,000; fully insured. All the engines were saved. The business of the road will not be interrupted.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS....First Session.

SENATE, Jan. 7.—Mr. Wilson presented the petition of Col. T. W. Higginson, praying for information as to the pay of colored troops compared with that of privates in the Regular Army, asking for the same pay as volunteers. Mr. Carlile offered a resolution stating that, as a result of a compact of States, each State for itself adopted the Constitution of the United States as it adopted its own State Constitution. Laid over. Mr. Howard's resolution, that the Committee on the Judiciary consider the propriety of repealing the joint resolution of July 17, 1862, which prohibits a forfeiture of real estate beyond the natural life of the offenders, was adopted. The House bill, making appropriations for the Post-Office Department was referred to the Finance Committee. The bill for continuing the bounties to volunteers was referred to the Committee on Finance, with the understanding that it shall be early reported. The message of the President, and documents on the same subject, were referred to the same Committee. The bill to Enroll the National Forces was considered, and all the amendments of the Military Committee were adopted except the one repealing the $300 exemption clause—that is to be hereafter considered. Mr. Howe offered joint resolutions declaring that as the traitor authorities hold in barbarous imprisonment our officers and soldiers, refusing to exchange except upon their own terms, are unable or unwilling to feed them properly, or even tolerably, and have denied them the charity sought to be bestowed by ourselves; that as it does not become 20,000,000 of people to permit their brethren to starve within one hundred miles of their own capital, the President be authorized to call out one million of volunteers to serve for ninety days, to be employed in carrying food and freedom to every captive in Rebel bands, and plant the United States flag upon every prison—that the forces so raised be under command of Gen. Grant. The resolution was referred to the Military Committee. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The Speaker announced as the Special Committee on a new railroad between Washington and New-York Messrs. Brandagee, Randall, Brooks, Webster, Sloan, Alley, Farnsworth, Garfield and Voorhees. A bill to consolidate the statutes was referred. A bill was referred exempting the communications of the Soldiers' Aid Society from postage. Mr. Blaine offered resolutions to ascertain the debts incurred by the several States in their efforts to suppress the insurrection, and declaring as the judgment of the House that all such debts should ultimately be assumed and liquidated by the General Government. Mr. Baldwin offered resolutions declaring the Jeff. Davis Government outlawed and having no power over the people of any portion of the country, and that any proposition to negotiate with the leaders of the Rebellion, as though they were entitled to bargain for and bind any whom they oppress, should be rejected without hesitation or delay. The resolutions were adopted—89 to 24. Among the Yeas were the following Democrats: Baily, Baldwin of Michigan, Brown of Wisconsin, Griswold, Holman, Kernan, Middleton, Odell, Stebbins, Sweat and Yeaman. Mr. Rodgers offered a resolution declaring for a vigorous prosecution of the war, but at the same time asking for peace, conciliation and compromise, so far as consistent with honor, and earnestly recommending the coöperation of the President and the Senate in sending Commissioners to Richmond in order that the war may be brought to an honorable end. Laid on the table by 78 to 42. Mr. A. Myers offered resolutions that we should forego all feelings of passion except such as are dictated by loyalty, all resentment except such as is due to, treason, and that the war should be waged until traitors and their sympathizers are conquered into the Union, made obedient to the laws, take the oath of allegiance, and submit to the Emancipation and Reconstruction Proclamations; when this is done, the chief Rebels and traitors to be hung, and the war to cease. Sent to Reconstruction Committee. Mr. Broomall introduced a bill providing for the construction of a Navy-Yard and Depot on the Delaware River and Bay, and appropriating $300,000 therefor. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill. Mr. Brooks moved to strike off all but one Minister to Central American States. The motion was lost, and the bill passed. Adjourned to Monday.

SENATE, Jan. 8.—A joint resolution to give Great Britain notice of the suspension of the Reciprocity Treaty was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Resolutions were reported offering thanks of Congress to Gens. Hooker, Meade, Banks and Burnside, their officers and men. Mr. Wilson's bill to promote enlistments was introduced. It provides that enlistments hereafter shall be for three years; that colored soldiers shall have the same supplies and pay as white men; that ten months pay shall be given in advance; that the wives and children of colored recruits shall be forever free; that chaplains absent by reason of wounds shall have full pay, and half pay, with rations, when absent from other causes; that each battalion of engineers shall be allowed an adjutant, a quartermaster and a commissary, to be selected from their Lieutenants. Bill referred to Military Committee. Mr. Grimes offered a bill to alter pay in the army as follows: Major-Generals, $4,000, with commutation for incidentals; $3,000 without commutation when out of command. Brigadier-Generals, same pay as at present when on duty; $3,200 when in command of a department or on other duty in the field; $2,500 when on leave or waiting orders. Colonels same as now when on full duty; $2,800 when not in the field; $2,100 when on leave. Lieutenant-Colonels, on duty not in the field, $2,250; on leave, $1,680. Majors, $1,800; $1,700 on duty not in the field; $1,500 on leave or waiting for orders. Captains, $1,500 and $1,200. Lieutenants, $1,200 and $1,100. The bill was sent to the Military Committee. Mr. Wilson offered a bill repealing acts which limit the time for proceedings in certain cases in criminal and civil courts and courts-martial, and the time for any proceedings in forfeiture or confiscation. Mr. Hale moved for a Select Committee to examine into the efficiency of the steam engines lately constructed for the use of the Navy, the mode of procuring supplies, and the conduct of the Department generally, and that they have power to send for persons and papers. Hale, Grimes, Doolittle, Conness and Davis debated the subject, when it was postponed for the present. Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution providing for the expulsion of Senator Davis, of Kentucky, owing to the sentiments put forth in a recent resolution by the latter, which, in the opinion of Mr. Wilson, "incites the people to treasonable insurrection and rebellion." Stripped of its verbiage this, Mr. Wilson said, was the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Davis explained to the Senate that the language quoted in Mr. Wilson's resolution was a garbled version of his own resolution. What he (Davis) proposed was that the people should rise at the polls and take the power of this Government into their own hands. He (Davis) repeated that the terms of Mr. Wilson's resolution were against the terms of his own, and were false in fact. The subject was then passed over and the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill in amendment of the Enrollment Act. Mr. Sumner moved that no person shall furnish a substitute, the Government to do that work; $300 shall be paid by every drafted man seeking exemption; if his income is over $600 and under $2,000 he pays 10 per cent more; $2,000 to $5,000, 20 per cent; over $5,000, 30 per cent. A long debate followed generally against striking out the $300 commutation. Mr. Wilson made some important statements. He thought the Rebels had but about 225,000 men, and that with average success the war would be practically over, or at least the Rebellion crushed, by October. He would have the time of enlistments fixed at eighteen months, and retain the $300 clause. Without coming to a question, the Senate adjourned to Monday.

SENATE, Jan. 11.—A bill was introduced to set apart a portion of the State of Texas for the occupation of negroes. Mr. Sumner offered a bill, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee, explaining the Confiscation act of last year. His bill enacts that there shall be no forfeiture of real estate other than as provided for by the Constitution. Mr. Henderson proposed amendments to the Constitution. A joint resolution in relation to the occupation of Mexico by the French was referred. A resolution was offered appropriating money to supply deficiencies in public printing and bounties. Mr. Wilkinson introduced a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for information in regard to the arrest and imprisonment of soldiers of the 9th Minnesota Regiment by the military authorities of Missouri while engaged in protecting certain slaves from being carried away by Rebel masters. Mr. Lane (Kansas) said that scores of soldiers had been incarcerated in dungeons in Missouri for the simple offense of "hurrahing" for "Jim Lane," and that the Colonel who had imprisoned them was himself afterward obliged to "hurrah" for "Jim Lane." The subject introduced was now undergoing investigation by the Missouri authorities. The officers appointed by Gov. Gamble of Missouri were the offenders. They are sympathizers with the Rebellion. The House bill making Consular and Diplomatic appropriations was referred to the Finance Committee. The resolution to expel Senator Davis of Kentucky was made the order for Wednesday next, at 1 o'clock. [Mr. Henderson's proposed amendments to our Constitution are: 1st, That slavery, or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall not exist in the United States. 2d, That a majority of all the members of each House may propose amendments to the Constitution; that a majority of all the States, through their legislatures, may do the same; that such amendments shall be a part of the Constitution when ratified by the Legislatures of two-thirds of all the States, or by Conventions in two-thirds of the States.] Mr. Carlile (Ind. Union Va.) announced the death of Mr. Bowden, and moved the usual resolutions of condolence, and that the Senators wear crape for thirty days, and as a further mark of respect, that the Senate adjourn. Messrs. Willey and Wilson, followed in eulogies. The resolutions were adopted, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Bills were offered to pay loyal citizens for loss of property during the Rebellion; for a military and postal railway from New-York to Washington; for a ship-canal uniting the Mississippi with the Northern Lakes. It was resolved to give the use of the hall to Miss Dickinson, who will speak in behalf of the Freedmen's Aid Society; 48 voted against it. Fernando Wood moved an investigation, moved a whereas and resolution charging Gen. Butler with all manner of fraudulent practices, and declaring that "general demoralization and incapacity pervade the Executive branch of the Government to an extent which calls for the interposition and preventative legislation of Congress." He wanted an Investigating Committee, but the House refused, the matter being laid on the table, 77 to 63. The charges of official misconduct in the New-York Custom-House were referred to the Committee on Public Expenditures. Mr. Broomall moved a resolution to farther the enlistment of colored soldiers, by offering full pay and bounties to slaves yet under Rebel control. A bill was referred to reimburse Pennsylvania for expenses in calling out militia during invasion. The death of Senator Bowden was announced, and, after the customary remarks and resolves, the House adjourned.

SENATE, Jan. 12.—Bills were noticed to legalize certain ordinances of the Supervisors of New-York relative to the issue of County bonds, and to authorize the borrowing of an additional sum for the payment of riot damages and military bounties; to amend the act for compensating parties whose property may be destroyed in consequence of mobs and riots; to regulate the milk freight on the Harlem Railroad; to confirm certain conveyances executed by husband and wife directly to each other, and to enable husband and wife to convey real property directly to each other. Bills were introduced to establish a Law Library in New-York; to incorporate the Cayuga and Ontario Ship Canal Company. A resolution was adopted inquiring of the Commissioners of the Land Office what obstacles interfere with the sale of the Marine Hospital and land at Sequin's Point, as directed by law last year. The Assembly resolutions to enable soldiers to vote were referred to the Judiciary Committee. Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.—The Speaker announced the Standing Committees. Bills were noticed to incorporate the Bank of savings and endowments in New-York. To create Commissioners for retrenchments, removals and revenues for New-York. To build a produce market in New-York. To regulate ferriage between New-York and Long Island. Allowing soldiers in the army to vote. To regulate the rate of milk freight on the Harlem Railroad. Bills were introduced to amend the code of procedure. In relation to the disposition and sale of barrels, &c., used by manufacturers of malt liquors. Mr. Brandreth called up the resolutions to amend the Constitution, for the relief of the calendar of the Court of Appeals, and they were adopted. Adjourned.

SENATE, Jan. 12.—Mr. Fessenden reported back the House bill, extending bounties to veteran and other volunteers. It was passed. Mr. Lane reported the House bill for the payment of officers and men employed in the Department of Missouri. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill authorizing the appointment of a Second-Assistant Secretary of War. Mr. Sumner modified his amendment to the enrollment bill providing that the Secretary of War shall apply the money received from the draft to the single purpose of providing substitutes. Mr. Sherman opposed the amendment as an extra income tax; and also as calculated to raise the price of enlistments, and as operating unequally. After some debate the amendment was rejected—25 to 15. Further debate ensued, but no vote on the bill was taken. After Executive Session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—A bill to change the places of holding Circuit and District Courts in East Tennessee was passed. There was a short debate upon the powers and duties of the Court of Claims in regard to the adjudication upon cases where property has been taken for army use or destroyed in the progress of the War. The subject was postponed until the 21st inst. Mr. Wilson reported a bill providing for the revision and consolidation of the laws of the United States. Mr. Stevens reported a bill to increase the internal revenue, which was made the special order for Thursday next. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill to reimburse Pennsylvania for calling out the militia for repelling invasion and appropriating $900,000 for that purpose. Fernando Wood moved an amendment so as to reimburse New-York, which should be placed on an equal footing with Pennsylvania or any other State. Mr. Rogers wanted to include New-Jersey. Mr. Blaine said as long as eighteen months ago the State of Maine filed her vouchers, and it was only last week he had ascertained that a final adjustment had been reached. Mr. Cox offered an amendment that whenever expenditures for calling out the militia either to repel invasion or suppress insurrection in any State shall be audited by the proper department, they shall be paid, and the sum of $10,000,000 is appropriated for the purpose. Mr. Thayer advocated the original bill. Without taking the question the Committee rose and the House adjourned.

SENATE, Jan. 13.—The bill authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War was reported from the Military Committee. Mr. Buckalew wanted the Government to print 5,000 copies of McClellan's report for the use of the Senate. Mr. Lane of Kansas offered a bill prohibiting the sale of gold at higher prices than that paid in the regular market of New-York City for United States bonds, paying six per cent interest in gold, except for exportation to pay debts. The resolution of Mr. Wilson to expel Senator Davis from his seat in the Senate, was taken up. Mr. Wilson addressed the Senate at length. Mr. Davis replied; Mr. Wilson answered, and, without voting, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Motion was made to admit Wm. Jayne as Delegate from Dakota, but was not voted upon. Mr. Wilson from the Judiciary Committee, reported a joint resolution, amendatory of the resolution of July, 1862, to punish rebellion, confiscate estates, &c. It provides that forfeitures shall continue only during the lifetime of the offender, in accordance with the Constitution, the President's Message of July, 1862, to be a sufficient warning in all cases now pending or hereafter to arise. Mr. Wilson explained that the resolution simply submitted the section of the Constitution relative to forfeiture to the courts, to decide whether they shall be in Fee or only for life. Mr. Kernan was against amending the present laws, believing that the forfeitures [illegible] during lifetime. The subject was passed over. Mr. Boutwell reported a bill to enable President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to be carried into effect. The House voted to print 10,000 copies of McClellan's and Grant's Reports. A bill was reported and laid over to establish a Bureau to look after the affairs of Freedmen. The House went into Committee on the President's Message, and Mr. Yeaman made a speech on the President's reconstruction plan, contending that no State could be in rebellion, although its people may; he thought the Border State Unionists were the most loyal men in the country. Adjourned.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE, Jan. 7.—A bill was brought in to repeal the law which prohibits town and county authorities from making loans to pay bounties. Also a bill that the First Division of the National Guard shall be organized into brigades, each to consist of two regiments of uniformed troops. Bills were noticed relative to piers, &c., in New-York; to amend the Constitution so that soldiers may vote; incorporating the Cayuga and Ontario Ship Canal Co.; modifying city departments in New-York; to punish misuse of money by public officers. Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.—Bills were noticed: To regulate street railroads in New-York; to amend the excise-law; to regulate the sale and use of beer-casks; to create a commission to fix the boundary between New-York and Westchester Counties; relative to pawn-brokers' interest; to amend the Code of Procedure. Mr. Palmer introduced a Soldiers' Voting Bill; Mr. Robinson handed in a bill to perfect the amendment of the Constitution so as to provide for the same end; Mr. A. Andrews called up the resolutions proposing to amend the Constitution so as to enable soldiers to vote. The resolutions were passed unanimously. The annual report of the Superintendent of the Bank Department was presented. Adjourned.

SENATE, Jan. 8.—Mr. Laimbeer introduced a bill appointing as Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police District, Thomas C. Acton for eight years, William Small for six years, John G. Bergen for four years, and Samuel Jones for two years. Their successors to be chosen by the Legislature in the same manner as Regents of the University, and holding office for eight years; in case of vacancy the remaining Commissioners to appoint until the Legislature shall elect. The bill repeals Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the present Police Law. It was referred to the Committee on Cities and Villages. Bills were noticed: To enlarge the Champlain Canal; rebuild the Oneida Lake Canal; regulate Railroads in Brooklyn. Bills were introduced: To incorporate the Niagara Ship Canal Company; to enable husband and wife to testify for or against each other in certain cases. Resolutions were offered looking to an increase of salaries for members and clerks; Mr. Fields offered concurrent resolutions to amend the Constitution so that soldiers may vote. Adjourned to Monday.

ASSEMBLY.—Notices of bills were given: To regulate the freight tariff on the Hudson River Railroad; to amend the Metropolitan Police act, relating to an increase of pay; to regulate the fees of the County officers of New-York; to divide the Eighth Ward, Brooklyn. Resolutions were adopted: Relative to Gen. Corcoran; also to Archbishop Hughes; resolutions to provide increased compensation to the police force of the Metropolitan District were also adopted. Adjourned to Monday.

SENATE, Jan. 11.—No quorum present. Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.—No business of importance.

SENATE, Jan. 13.—Bills were noticed to reimburse regiments of the National Guard for clothing, equipments and camp equipage destroyed or lost in the service of the United States; relative to contracts for canal repairs; to legalize the [illegible] of Justices of the Peace in civil and criminal cases; to legalize the acts of Board of Supervisors in raising bounty money. Bills were introduced to regulate [illegible] Harlem Railroad; to amend the charter of the Protestant Episcopal Tract Society; to amend the charter of the Bible and Prayer-Book Society. Mr. Laimbeer introduced a resolution empowering the Committee on Cities and Villages to inquire into the practicability of consolidating the several Departments of the New-York City Government, and reducing the expenses thereof. [illegible]

ASSEMBLY.—Notices were given of bills relative to appointments by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. To increase the tax on dogs. In relation to Newtown and Grand street railroad. To suppress immoral advertisements in newspapers. To incorporate the Metropolitan Market Company. To prohibit the use of suspension or chain bridges at ferries. To facilitate the construction of a railroad from Jamaica to Rockaway. To amend the act relating to taxing banks and other moneyed corporations. To regulate the rate of fare on the New-Haven Railway. Bills were introduced to extend Schenectady avenue, Brooklyn, to Ocean street. Prohibiting non-residents from holding stands in the New-York markets. To incorporate the National Club. To amend the charter of the Canarsie and Gravesend Railroad Company. To amend the Revised Statutes in relation to partnerships. To amend the Metropolitan Police Act. Resolutions were offered condemning "Concert Saloons," and for the appointment of a Committee to investigate the same. (Laid over.) That the National Guard should not be subjected to the U. S. military service. (Referred.) Resolutions complimentary to Gen. Grant were adopted. Adjourned.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 7, 1864.

THE INDIAN OUTRAGE RELIEF COMMISSION.

The Commission appointed for the relief of the sufferers by the Indian hostilities in Minnesota, consisting of Col. Aldrich and Messrs. White and Chase, were in session at St. Peter's, Minnesota, for about five months, working twelve to sixteen hours per day. Twenty nine hundred and forty claims were presented and examined. A large number were also presented, but could not be examined, as the law fixed the time for the expiration of their duties at December 1. The above number of claims amounted to $2,458,000. The Commission awarded $1,370,458. The $200,000 appropriated at the last session for the immediate relief of the most needy sufferers, were paid to over 1,400 persons, many of whom were made widows and orphans by the Indians.

Nearly 11,000 witnesses were examined, and their testimony reduced to writing, covering about 16,000 sheets of legal cap paper. The testimony shows that over 800 men, women, and children were brutally butchered by the Indians. Thousands who had purchased homesteads of the United States, and paid for them, were driven away, and are now refugees, it being unsafe to return to the frontier. It is estimated that $5,000,000 will not reimburse the people for the damages inflicted by the Indians on the frontier of Minnesota. Government holds about $3,000,000 annuities forfeited by the rebellious Sioux. It is proposed to use this sum in payment of the above claims, and a bill appropriating $1,100,000 is being prepared to meet the balance due on the amount awarded by the Commission.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS SENT TO THE SENATE.

The following nominations were sent into the Senate to-day: Gen. Grant to be Major-General in the Regular Army; Gens. W. T. Sherman, McPherson, Meade and Geo. H. Thomas, to be Brigadier-Generals in the Regular Army. Three Major-Generals and 81 Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers were also nominated. Gen. Gillmore was to-day recommended by the President for promotion in the Regular Army, from a Major to be a Brigadier-General, for gallant services at the siege of Fort Pulaski. He was also nominated as Major-General of Volunteers.

WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM THE NEW DRAFT—IMPORTANT ORDER FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following important information relative to the diseases which will exempt persons from the new draft is given. The order will soon be promulgated by the War Department, and is in course of printing. The following diseases and infirmities are those which disqualify for military service, and for which only

Exchange, and are to be "rejected as physically and morally unfit for the service."

Having noted industry, frugality, including profit-sharing, temperance, and other virtues of the laborer, the author concludes that "the ultimate and only solution of the problem of the relations between capital and labor, is the introduction of industrial partnerships, on the principle of the Christian Gospel, permanent and complete, like those established by Christ and his Apostles, and not temporary and incomplete, like those established by Napoleon and Louis Napoleon." Of the Christian Gospel, the author says, "Its principles are those of the Sermon on the Mount, and of the Epistles of the Apostles." Of the Apostles, he says, "Their principles are those of the Sermon on the Mount." Of the Sermon on the Mount, he says, "Its principles are those of the Epistles of the Apostles." Of the Epistles

Death of Thackeray.

The beautiful and touching tributes to the memory of Lord Macaulay and Washington Irving from the pen of Mr. Thackeray were recently republished in our columns; and it is now announced that the illustrious author himself has become the subject of honorable eulogy and tender remembrance. We learn by our telegraphic dispatches of European news that he died after a single day's illness, on the 24th of December.

William Makepeace Thackeray was born of English parentage in Calcutta, where his father was engaged in the service of the East India Company, in the year 1811. In the seventh year of his age, he was sent to England for his education, entered the Charterhouse school in London, became a member of the University of Cambridge, but did not receive a degree. Upon the attainment of his majority, he came into possession of a very considerable fortune, which did not, however, prevent him from devoting himself to the study of art, with a view to making it his profession. For several years, he resided in different European capitals, and traveled extensively in France, Italy, and Germany. Soon after his return to England, he abandoned the plan of becoming a professional artist, and having lost a large portion of his property by ruinous speculations, before his thirtieth year, he decided to adopt a literary career as his vocation. As has not unfrequently been the case with celebrated English authors, his first efforts were made in the newspaper and periodical press; but it was long before he attracted any marked attention from the public, although it would not have been difficult for the appreciative reader to predict his future distinction.

His contributions to Fraser's Magazine under the signatures of Michael Angelo Titmarsh, and George Fitzboodle, consisting of tales, descriptive sketches, criticisms, and poetical effusions of various kinds, betrayed an original genius, great knowledge of the "highways and byways" of life, and a mastership of subtle irony, and of a playful, facile, vigor of expression. Upon the establishment of "Punch" in 1841, he found a congenial field for the exercise of his power of sarcasm, his light, agile, trenchant wit, and his tact and keenness in seizing and depicting the ludicrous aspects of social life. His first brilliant success as a novelist was in the publication of "Vanity Fair," which was issued in numbers, and which at once brought his name before the literary world, as the rival or superior of Dickens and Bulwer. This was followed by "Pendennis," which was also published as a serial, and concluded in the year 1850.

In the summer of 1851, he delivered his lectures on "The English Humorists of the Eighteenth Century," before large and admiring audiences in London, and soon after repeated them in the principal American cities. These were published in 1853, and had a very extensive circulation. "Henry Esmond" had been published during the previous year, and was followed by "The Newcomes" in 1855. A series of lectures on "The Four Georges" was delivered in New-York and other cities of the United States in 1855-'6, and afterward repeated in most of the large towns in England and Scotland. "The Virginians" followed in 1858, and in January, 1860, the first number of the "Cornhill Magazine" appeared under his editorial care, in which he successively published "Lovel the Widower," the "Four Georges," and "Philip."

Mr. Thackeray had made two visits to the United States, where, if he found some unfriendly critics, he met with more congenial admirers. He was nowhere the object of more enthusiastic kindness and affection than in this country. His frankness of manner, the bluff, burly nonchalance of his carriage, his sincerity of expression, sometimes amounting to bluntness, to apparent rudeness indeed, were combined with a certain geniality of humor, which, to those who knew him well, possessed an almost irresistible attraction. He carried his freedom from affectation to an extreme point; his social realism was often too sturdy and athletic for weak and sensitive nerves; he had but few sugar-plums to tickle the palate of people with a taste for sweets; but no one, not an invalid or an idiot, could mistake the genuine kindness of his heart, or his possession of a broad, downright, generous, and cordial nature. The tones of his voice were the true expression of his character. Deep, rich, emphatic, varying with the subject in hand, if not with the person addressed, they betrayed feeling that reached far below the surface, and intelligence that flowed from a mind of noble endowments.

Apart from the irony, the persiflage, the fun, the exquisite mischief, and delightful malice which play their impish pranks in such a large class of Mr. Thackeray's writings, we have the most profound sense of his merits as a great moral teacher. In this respect, perhaps without consciously aiming at it, he was one of the brightest lights of the age. His lessons are full of sound, robust, practical wisdom; worldly wisdom it may be called; but wisdom suited to the world in which it must be exercised. He teaches both by flashes of sarcastic wit, and by the kindest, gentlest insinuations, the worth of integrity, of charity, of infinite pity, of keeping up heart and hope, of sinewy manliness, of serene composure under the evils of life, of scornful detestation of whatever is base, treacherous, false, or cowardly. His sardonic grimaces and cynical ways are only the vail over his fine, earnest, profound humanities; attracting notice by their sometimes grotesque expression, but never concealing quite the tender, kindly, generous nature of the hirsute, unpolished man. What a world of wisdom, of acquiescence in the higher Will, of love, of sentiment, of pathos, of sympathy, in the gay, rollicking, convivial "Ballad of Bouillabaisse," which whoso understands not, understands not Thackeray. But such shaggy, prickly nuts as that, which in various forms abound in his writings, always contain the sweetest and most precious meat.

In point of literary execution, Mr. Thackeray stands unrivaled among English writers. His pellucid style flows directly from his transparent nature. No one condenses such a wealth of meaning in such brief phrases. The artless grace of his composition, though doubtless the fruit of the highest artistic skill, wins upon the reader like the confiding narrative of a child. In its elegant simplicity, its clear-cut directness of expression, its often homely, though never careless vigor, his style has a charm which is possessed by few writers in any language, and the like of which is not easily to be discovered in any literature.

The world has lost in Mr. Thackeray not merely one of its most delightful writers, but one of its most enlightened and admirable guides. His benignant wisdom, shining and smiling through the mask of Mephistopheles which he loved to wear, was in harmony with the spirit of the age which demands reality and not pretense, which often disguises the deeper moods, and prefers in its prophets the inspiration of nature rather than the assertion of authority.

A Democratic State Convention met at Concord, N. H., on Friday, abused the Government in their resolutions, and nominated E. W. Harrington for Governor and P. A. J. Vaughan for Railroad Commissioner.

THE FREEDMEN OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Their Condition and Necessities—Defects of the Cotton Plantation Systems.

James E. Yeatman, President of the Western Sanitary Commission, recently visited the various camps in which the Freedmen are gathered, from Cairo to Natchez, along the Mississippi. He has collected his observations in a report to the Commission, dated Dec. 17, 1863, which is of great interest and value, containing as it does much information on the questions touched, not otherwise accessible. From it we select and abridge the following statements:

Mr. Yeatman's object was "to ascertain as far as possible the number of those who are unemployed, and who are now, or are likely to become in future, a charge upon the Government, or upon private charity; to ascertain their wants, and how they can be relieved; and to make such recommendations and suggestions for their management and improvement, as will bring them as speedily as possible to the enjoyment of the blessings which the President's Proclamation of Freedom was designed to confer upon them."

With these views he visited twenty-one camps, plantations, and farms. Concerning affairs at Memphis he writes as follows:

"Within the City of Memphis, not directly connected with any of the camps or with the colored regiments, there are some *three thousand* freedmen and women, mostly freed men, who are employed in various ways and at various rates of compensation. Those employed by Government receive but $10 per month, while many could readily earn from $30 to $50 per month. Those thus employed are outside of the military organization.

"To give an instance: One quartermaster told me that he had in his employment a harness maker, to whom he could only pay $10 per month, *while they were paying white men doing the same work $45 per month;* and that the colored man could readily procure the same wages were he *allowed* to seek a market for his labor in the same town. I saw a number of colored men pressed into service (not military), to labor at the rate of $10 per month, one of whom petitioned to be released as he had a good situation at $30 per month. The firemen on the steamboat on which I was a passenger from St. Louis to Memphis were all colored, and were receiving $45 per month. *These men were afraid to go ashore at Memphis, for fear of being picked up and forced into Government employment at less than one-fourth their existing wages.* Beside the fact that men are thus pressed into service, thousands have been employed for weeks and months who have never received anything but promises to pay.

"This negligence and failure to comply with obligations have greatly disheartened the poor slave, who comes forth at the call of the President, and supposes himself a free man, and that by leaving his Rebel master he is inflicting a blow on the enemy, ceasing to labor and to provide food for him and for the armies of the Rebellion. Thus he was promised freedom, but how is it with him? He is seized in the street, and ordered to go and help unload a steamboat, for which he will be paid, or sent to work in the trenches, or to labor for some Quartermaster, or to chop wood for the Government. He labors for months, and at last is only paid with promises, unless perchance it may be with kicks, cuffs, and curses. Under such treatment he feels that he has exchanged one master for many masters; these continued abuses sadden and depress him, and he sighs to return to his former home and master. He, at least, fed, clothed, and sheltered him. Something should be done, and I doubt not will be done, to correct these terrible abuses when the proper authorities are made to comprehend them."

Goodrich's Landing presents another and more favorable picture. It is the Headquarters of the North-East Department of Louisiana, under command of Brig.-Gen. Hawkins, who has in command six regiments of colored troops, all well officered and thoroughly drilled. One of these regiments is at Milliken's Bend, and two are at Vicksburg engaged in working on the fortifications. He is justly proud of his troops, and has every confidence in them as soldiers.

The Infirmary Farms are intended for women and children and for men unable to do ordinary work. "Dr. Littlefield, who is the physician of the Infirmary Farms, is located at the Savage Place, where he has established a Freedmen's Hospital. He appears to take a very deep interest in this people, and is desirous to aid in improving their condition. He reports he has to furnish medicines and attendance to many of those on leased plantations, especially to those on the places leased by one man who had leased five plantations, whose negroes are greatly neglected and poorly provided for. The testimony of quite a number of persons fully corroborated this statement. One of the freedmen, Henson Jackson, working at Wilton's Plantation, said that they got corn wherever they can find it on abandoned plantations; that they frequently have to go as far as Tensas Bayou, *that he has been without bread for days, that four pounds of meat per week is all that is allowed him, that he pays for his flour, and has worked since April without receiving any pay or clothing whatever, that he only receives tickets for actual days work, to be paid when the crop is sold.* Others from the same farm testified to the same thing, and laborers from other plantations gave similar testimony. None received molasses, rice, or beans, and hominy only when they choose to make it themselves.

"The poor negroes are everywhere greatly depressed at their condition. They all testify that if they were only paid their little wages as they earn them, so that they could purchase clothing, and were furnished with the provisions promised they could stand it; but to work and get poorly paid, poorly fed, and not doctored when sick, is more than they can endure. Among the thousands whom I questioned none showed the least unwillingness to work. If they could only be paid fair wages they would be contented and happy. They do not realize that they are free men. They say that they are told they are, but then they are taken and hired out to men who treat them, so far as providing for them is concerned, far worse than their "secesh" masters did. Beside this they feel that their pay or hire is lower now than it was when "the secesh" used to hire them. This is true. A good negro man would hire for from $200 to $240 per annum, and a woman for from $150 to $180 per annum, and be fed and clothed beside, and that too when cotton was only worth 10 cents a pound. Now it is worth 70 cents. Why should not the freed man now get at least as much for his labor as the slave owner did for it when he was a slave. The planter who formerly hired a negro slave obtained from $450 to $500 as the result of his labor; now he will obtain at least $2,500, while the laborer, if he should obtain his entire year's wages will only receive $82; $2 per head being deducted to pay his medical attendance, which is never given. But the poor freedman fares even worse than this. He does not get his $7 per month, or $84 per annum, less $2 for medical attendance. He only gets paid at that rate for the actual number of days which he may work, that is 27c. per day, so that if the planter furnishes but ten days labor in the month, the laborer receives but $2 70 for his month's labor. Was there ever a greater iniquity than this? I am confident that it is only necessary for this Commission to present these facts at Washington to have them corrected.

"The parties leasing plantations and employing these negroes do it from no motives either of loyalty or humanity. The desire of gain alone prompts them, and they care little whether they make it out of those they employ or from the soil. There are of course exceptions; but I am informed that the majority of the lessees were only adventurers, camp followers, 'army sharks,' as they are termed, who have turned aside from what they consider their legitimate prey, the poor soldier, to gather the riches of the land which his prowess has laid open to them. I feel that the fathers, and brothers, and friends of these brave men should have an opportunity to reap, under a more equitable system for the labor, the reward of the months of toil and exposure it has cost to open this country to the institutions of freedom and compensated labor. If these plantations were required to be subdivided into parcels or tracts to suit the views and means of our Western men, say in farms of from 100 to 200 acres, thousands would soon flock to the South to lease them, especially when it is known that one acre of ground there cultivated in cotton would yield in dollars ten times as much as at home. Besides, this subdivision would attract a loyal population, who would protect the country against any guerrilla bands that might infest it."

"Lessees are now allowed to lease as many plantations as their cupidity may lead them to grasp. I was informed that two parties had each leased four plantations and another five. No one party should be permitted to lease over one. Lessees of more than one plantation are unable to give their personal supervision, and so employ the old overseers whom the former masters had employed. Whether these men can ever be brought to regard as freemen those whom they had always known and treated as slaves is very doubtful. Besides, would a man of any humanity be likely to employ these men, who have hunted the slave with blood-hounds, and driven him to his work with the lash?

"I was informed by one lessee that parties are trying to form a combination by which a few men would monopolize many plantations. This should not be permitted. It is very important to the welfare of the freedmen to have the plantations in as many different hands as possible. If there are benefits to be derived from the leasing of these lands, let them be diffused among the soldiers' relatives and friends and the friends of the freedmen as much as possible.

"One of the provisions of the present lease system is that articles of clothing, &c., should be furnished by the lessee to those in his employ at cost. From the testimony of a number of persons, most of the lessees have failed to provide such articles, until recently, and then only at exorbitant prices. I saw shoes which could be purchased in St. Louis at $1 a pair sold at $3 50, and calicoes which would cost 20c. to 24c. sold at 75c. per yard. Such extortion should be prevented by severe penalties.

"The freedmen should be allowed to become lessees of as much land as they can show their ability to stock and take care of. Gen. Thomas, in his report of the 15th of October, shows that there were fifteen colored lessees, who had made from four up to one hundred and fifty bales of cotton. I visited quite a number of freedmen who were engaged in planting cotton on their own account."

A list of them is given, and Mr. Yeatman remarks:

"From the above one can readily see that coercion is not essential to make the negro work. The new boon of freedom had been granted, and still they steadily went forward with their work, some of them accomplishing fully as much as under the eye of a master and the lash of the overseer."

Schools are organizing at Goodrich's Landing, and a full corps of teachers has been sent out by the assembly of the United Presbyterian Church. There are other schools in charge of colored teachers. Uncle Tom, a colored man, at the Savage plantation, is teaching a school of 30 scholars. He is infirm and teaches while himself lying in bed. Wm. McCutchen, also colored, has begun a school on the Currie place. He has 63 scholars, greatly in want of books. They were using books of all kinds—scarcely any two alike, and some had nothing but scraps of paper. One had a volume of Tennyson's poems, out of which he was learning his letters. The teacher had but one arm, having lost the other by a cotton-gin.

At Milliken's Bend are 350 freedmen, mostly soldiers' families. At Omega, two miles above, about 200 are engaged in cutting wood at 50 cents per cord and rations. At Van Buren Hospital are 419 persons, and about 250 scholars, old and young. They want books, slates, maps, &c. Women and children's clothing are also much needed. At Paw-Paw Island, a few miles below, are about 1,550 persons in destitute condition.

"At Young's Point, D. L. Jones, of the 9th Louisiana Regiment, African descent, is in charge of the camp. There are now some 2,100 in this camp, in miserable huts, tents and hovels. There appears to be more squalid misery and destitution here than in any place I have visited. The sickness and deaths were most frightful. *During the Summer, from thirty to fifty died in a day, and some days as many as seventy-five, during the latter part of June, July and August.* Most of the medicines received were from the Western and United States Sanitary Commissions.

"At De Soto, immediately opposite Vicksburg, there are about 275 old men, women and children, to whom the Government furnishes rations, but from some cause or other *none had been received for more than two weeks preceding my visit,* and great destitution and dissatisfaction existed. A few were earning a little money by washing for the soldiers. They want work. Their cabins are poor. Below De Soto there is a large wood yard, carried on by Mr. Sweeney, who pays his hands *promptly,* and they are all well satisfied. They say that if they can only get work and get paid for it, they will be contented and happy. *This was the first and only employer met with by me who had paid his laborers promptly and well.* Work, and to be dealt with fairly and honestly, is all they ask. Let this be done, and they will labor cheerfully and freely.

"About thirty miles below Vicksburg above six hundred freedmen have assembled and taken possession of the plantations of Jeff. and Jo. Davis. There are three of these plantations on a bend of the river, which a line of defenses, one mile in length, will thoroughly protect. These plantations will be taken possession of by the Government, and a regular camp established. The Rebels have recently made an attack on the defenseless negroes, killing and wounding several, and driving the rest into the woods. A force was sent to drive them off, which it did. A gun-boat is now located there, which will afford thorough protection. These plantations should be used *permanently* as Infirmary Farms for the aged and infirm negroes freed by the action of their former possessors. It is but right and proper that these distinguished Abolitionists, Jeff. and Jo. Davis, should be made to furnish homes to at least a few of those who have been deprived of their homes and kind masters by their action."

At Natchez is a camp of 2,100 freedmen, all in cabins, which are without proper light and ventilation, overcrowded, and most prolific sources of disease. Seventy-five had died in one day. "I was informed that some had returned to their masters on account of suffering." Physicians are greatly needed.

"Thousands must die for want of medicines and medical attendance this Winter. There are already teachers, missionaries and chaplains enough in the field; without physicians there will soon be no scholars for the teacher to teach, or souls for the missionary to save.

"This camp had numbered four thousand at one time, now it is reduced to 2,100—a sad tale to tell, but nevertheless true. The same, I doubt not, can be said of other camps. Whoever will ride along the levee from Milliken's Bend to De Soto, as I did, and see the numerous graves along the way, for the distance of twenty-five miles, cannot doubt it. The inquiry everywhere was, 'Are you a Doctor?' I trust that this pressing want may be speedily supplied."

The whole number of freed people gathered in camps and towns along the Mississippi is about 25,000. There are about 15,000 colored troops, not included in this estimate.

The conclusion of the report is as follows:

"There are doubtless some points and camps which I have overlooked. I endeavored to procure all the information I could, and in the progress of my investigations I found that the simple work of humanity to the merely destitute, great and important as it is, is secondary to some other things; and the injustice with which the freedmen are treated, the continuing them in a state of involuntary servitude worse than that from which they have escaped, made me desirous of returning and presenting the subject to the Commission, and inducing it to do something toward getting the Government to make some alterations in the present lease system, the abuses of which are pointed out in some degree in the foregoing report.

"I have no doubt that the present system was the best that could be devised for the emergency at the time, but the experience of one season has enabled those who have examined it to see its defects, and the desire of all should be to remedy them. There is scarcely any architect, however skillful, whose plans cannot be improved upon. Our great effort should be not only to show that free labor can be made profitable to the employer, but also to the laborer, and it should not be made profitable by means of the wrongs and injustice practiced on the laborer. It is the duty of the Government to exercise a wholesome guardianship over these new-born children of freedom; to guide, direct and protect them, at least in their infancy, and to see that injustice and inhumanity are not practiced upon them, to make them realize that they are freemen; and to make them do this they must be treated as such and paid as such. If they are employed as soldiers, they should be paid, clothed and fed as soldiers; if they are employed as blacksmiths and carpenters, they should be paid as such. A man worth $30, $40, $50 or $75 per month, should not be forced to give his labor for less, or be hired out at $7 per month. They should be permitted to seek their own occupation; only let them know that they must be employed. If they select the army, they should be permitted to volunteer as other soldiers do. If a draft is necessary, let them be drafted. If they prefer to cultivate the soil, let them lease abandoned plantations, or such portions of them as they can show they are able to stock and manage. The same should be required, also, of the white lessees.

"If the freedmen wish to contract their labor, let them do it themselves, and not be hired out against their wills, to persons for whom they are not willing to work. These people should be educated up to, and made to realize, their new condition. Their masters sold them, or hired them out, fed them and clothed them; let them now hire themselves out, and with their wages buy their own food and clothing, and supply all their other wants. If they are hired out against their wills, and fed and clothed as before, they do not realize that they are freemen. It only appears to them a change of masters, and that for the worse, for before the master's interest prompted him to feed and clothe them well, to supply a physician and medicines, and to take care of them when sick. So in devising a system for the Government of these people in their present state of pupilage, such a plan should be adopted as will make them feel and see that they are treated and regarded as freemen."

REPORT OF GEN. McCLELLAN.

The Campaign of the Peninsula and of Maryland.

ABSTRACT AND ANALYSIS IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION.

Washington Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

The report is dated New-York, Aug. 4, 1863. It begins with an allusion to the results of the victories in Western Virginia, which, we learn, were won not at all in connection with any general coöperative plan of action; and then goes on to recite the arrival of the General in Washington after Bull Run; the organization of the Army of the Potomac; the grand plan laid out for the general campaign of 1861-62; the final invasion of Virginia in 1862; the Peninsula movement; the seven days' battles; and the short but glorious Maryland campaign of September, 1862. On the 1st of November, Gen. McClellan was appointed to the chief command of all the forces of the Union, and at once began active operations. The theater of the war had now extended about the whole circumference of the South; and it became necessary, as well as practicable, to plan a large and sweeping combination of military operations. An organization of New-England troops for occupying the coast line of the South on the middle Atlantic, which had been selected by Gen. McClellan in September, 1861, took shape in January, 1862, as an expedition under Gen. Burnside, designed to facilitate the movements of the main bodies in Eastern Virginia by an occupation of the coast line of North Carolina, Gen. Burnside being ordered, when he should have seized Newbern, to occupy and destroy the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad as far west as Goldsboro'; and, should circumstances favor, to push as far as Raleigh, Wilmington being, however, his ultimate objective point. "Caution about proclamation" was recommended, the General being urged "to say as little as possible about politics or the negro," and to state merely "that the true issue for which we are fighting is the preservation of the Union and upholding the laws of the General Government." At the same time letters were sent to Gen. Halleck (appointed to the command of the Department of Missouri), to Gen. Buell (in command of the Department of the Ohio), to Gen. Sherman (commanding in South Carolina and Georgia), and to Gen. Butler (commanding the Department of the Gulf). Gen. Halleck was charged with the duty of "reducing chaos to order" in his Department. In respect to military operations he was ordered to hold the State by fortified posts and concentrate his force on the Mississippi. Gen. Buell was instructed as to the vast importance of the military occupation of Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. In Kentucky itself he was advised "The conduct of our political affairs is perhaps more important than that of our military operations," and he was urged to bear in mind "that we shall most readily suppress this rebellion and restore the authority of the Government by religiously respecting the constitutional rights of all." In accordance "with the feelings and opinion of the President," Gen. McClellan requested Gen. Buell to assure "the people of Kentucky that their domestic institutions will in no manner be interfered with;" and "to allow nothing but the dictates of military necessity" to cause him to "depart from the spirit of his instructions." In respect to Tennessee, Gen. Buell was ordered to throw the mass of his troops "by rapid marches by Cumberland or Walker's Gap, on Knoxville, in order to occupy the railroad at that point," and "cut the communication between Eastern Virginia and the Mississippi." Gen. Buell was further counseled to avoid "widening the breach existing between us and the Rebels" by "causeless arrests and persecutions of individuals." "I have always found," adds Gen. McClellan, "that it is the tendency of subordinates to make vexatious arrests on mere suspicion." Gen. Sherman was advised that the favorable moment for a *coup de main* against Savannah had been lost, and that the best course before him would be "to isolate and reduce Fort Pulaski." But the "reduction of Charleston and its defenses" was held up as the great moral advantage to be sought for, and this was stated to be an object for which Gen. McClellan was actively maturing his combinations. Gen. Butler was instructed as to the obstacles to be encountered in reducing New-Orleans, and was ordered, as soon as possible after the fall of that city, to "seize all the approaches leading to it from the east," and particularly "Jackson, in Mississippi," with an ultimate view as well to the capture of Mobile as to the opening of the Mississippi. The instructions thus issued to the Generals named comprehend the entire scope of the plans of Gen. McClellan, of which plans the movement of the Army of the Potomac, under his own orders, was the central feature. It was considered by him necessary to the success of these plans that they should be carried out simultaneously, or as nearly so as possible, and the advance of the Potomac army upon Richmond by the lower Rappahannock was kept in hand by him, to be delivered as the decisive blow in conjunction with all the rest of the general movement. Passing over Gen. McClellan's full and elaborate account of the consultations and operations which preceded the advance to Manassas, March 9, 1862, we find that this advance was intended by him merely to occupy the troops during the preparations for the Peninsula campaign, then fully decided upon. The enemy's force at Manassas was estimated at 115,000, with 300 field guns and 300 siege guns. Gen. McClellan reached the Peninsula with 85,000 effectives early in April. He gives his reason for not assaulting the works at Yorktown, describes the battle of Williamsburg, with special praise of Gen. Hancock, and recites the advance to Richmond. The siege of that city is narrated at length, and the "change of base," with its attendant battles at Mechanicsville, fought June 26, to Malvern Hill, fought July 1, 1862. "This closed," says Gen. McClellan, "the hard fighting which had continued from the afternoon of the 26th of June, in a series of engagements wholly unparalleled on this continent for determination and slaughter on both sides." July 4 the General telegraphed to the President that he occupied, at Harrison's Bar, positions "which could be carried only by overwhelming numbers." "The spirit of the army," he added, "is excellent; stragglers are finding their regiments, and the soldiers exhibit the best results of discipline." He sums up the results of the brief but fierce campaign: "I cannot now approximate to any statement of our losses; but we were not beaten in any conflict. The enemy were unable, by their utmost efforts, to drive us from the field. * * * We have lost no guns except twenty-five on the field of battle, twenty-one of which were lost by the giving way of McCall's division, under the onset of superior numbers. When all the circumstances of the case are known, it will be acknowledged by all competent judges that the movement just completed by our army is unparalleled in the annals of war. Under the most difficult circumstances we have preserved our trains, our guns, our material, and, above all, our honor." To this the President replied: "Be assured the heroism and skill of yourself, officers, and men is, and forever will be, appreciated. If you can hold your present position we shall hive the enemy yet." On the 7th Gen. McClellan telegraphed: "If not attacked to-day I shall laugh at them. Flag-Officer Goldsborough is confident he can keep open my communications by the James." Expecting an attack, he says, as a necessity to the enemy, and feeling the critical nature of the position, Gen. McClellan on the same day addressed to the President the following letter:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, CAMP NEAR HARRISON'S LANDING, Va., Monday, July 7, 1862.

MR. PRESIDENT: You have been fully informed that the Rebel army is in our front, with the purpose of overwhelming us by attacking our positions or reducing us by blocking our river communications. I cannot but regard our condition as critical, and I earnestly desire, in view of possible contingencies, to lay before your Excellency, for your private consideration, my general views concerning the existing state of the Rebellion, although they do not strictly relate to the situation of the army, or strictly come within the scope of my official duties. These views amount to convictions, and are deeply impressed upon mind and heart. Our cause must never be abandoned—it is the cause of free institutions and self-government. The Constitution and Union must be preserved, whatever may be the cost in time, treasure and blood. If Secession is successful, other dissolutions are clearly to be seen in the future. Let neither military disaster, political faction nor foreign war shake our settled purpose to enforce the equal operation of the laws of the United States upon the people of every State. The time has come when the Government must determine upon a civil and military policy covering the whole ground of our national trouble. The responsibility of determining, declaring, and supporting such civil and military policy, and of directing the whole course of national affairs in regard to the Rebellion, must now be assumed and exercised by you, or our cause will be lost. The Constitution gives you power sufficient even for the present terrible exigency. This Rebellion has assumed the character of war; as such it should be regarded, and it should be conducted upon the highest principles known to Christian civilization. It should not be a war looking to the subjugation of the people of any State on any event. It should not be at all a war upon population, but against armed forces and political organization. Neither confiscation of property, political executions of persons, territorial organizations of States, or forcible abolition of Slavery, should be contemplated for a moment. In prosecuting the war, all private property and unarmed persons should be strictly protected, subject only to the necessity of military operations. All private property taken for military use should be paid, or receipted for; pillage and waste should be treated as high crimes; all unnecessary trespass sternly prohibited, and offensive demeanor by the military toward citizens promptly rebuked. Military arrests should not be tolerated except in places where active hostilities exist, and oaths not required by enactments constitutionally made should be neither demanded nor received. Military government should be confined to the preservation of public order and the protection of political rights. Military power should not be allowed to interfere with the relations of servitude, either by supporting or impairing the authority of the master, except for repressing disorder, as in other cases. Slaves contraband under the act of Congress, seeking military protection, should receive it. The right of the Government to appropriate permanently to its own service claims of slave labor should be asserted, and the right of the owner to compensation therefor should be recognized. This principle might be extended upon grounds of military necessity and security to all the slaves within a particular State, thus working manumission in such State; and in Missouri, perhaps in Western Virginia, also, and possibly even in Maryland, the expediency of such a measure is only a question of time. A system of policy thus constitutional and conservative, and pervaded by the influences of Christianity and freedom, would receive the support of almost all truly loyal men, would deeply impress the Rebel masses and all foreign nations, and it might be humbly hoped that it would commend itself to the favor of the Almighty. Unless the principles governing the future conduct of our struggle shall be made known and approved, the effort to obtain requisite forces will be almost hopeless. A declaration of radical views, especially upon Slavery, will rapidly disintegrate our present armies. The policy of the Government must be supported by concentrations of military power. The National forces should not be dispersed in expeditions, posts of occupation, and numerous armies; but should be mainly collected into masses and brought to bear upon the armies of the Confederate States. Those armies thoroughly defeated, the political structure which they support would soon cease to exist. In carrying out any system of policy which you may form, you will require a Commander-in-Chief of the army, one who possesses your confidence, understands your views, and who is competent to execute your orders by directing the military forces of the nation to the accomplishment of the objects by you proposed. I do not ask that place for myself. I am willing to serve you in such position as you may assign me, and will do so as faithfully as ever subordinate served superior. I may be on the brink of eternity, and, as I hope forgiveness from my Maker, I have written this letter with sincerity toward you and from love for my country.

GEORGE B. McCLELLAN.

Early in August the army was ordered to Aquia. The condition of affairs at Washington during the campaign of Pope is graphically described. Sept. 2 the President directed Gen. McClellan to take command of his own and Gen. Pope's armies, and find the enemy. On the 17th of September Antietam was fought, South Mountain and Crampton's Gap having been already won by us. Not a single gun or color was lost by us in these battles, and our total loss in men at Antietam is stated by Gen. McClellan at 12,469. The advance into Virginia after Antietam is related, with an account of the causes by which that advance was delayed. On the night of Nov. 7 Gen. McClellan was relieved, and the command transferred to Gen. Burnside. Gen. McClellan thus describes his own report: "This report is in fact the history of the Army of the Potomac. During the period occupied in the organization of that army, it served as a barrier against the advance of a lately victorious enemy, while the fortification of the Capital was in progress, and under the patronage which it then received, it acquired strength, education, and some of that experience which is necessary to success in active operations, and which enabled it afterward to sustain itself under circumstances trying to the most heroic men. Frequent skirmishes occurred along the lines, conducted with great gallantry, which inured our troops to the realities of war. The army grew into shape but slowly, and the delays which attended on the obtaining of arms, continued late into the Winter of 1861-62, were no less trying to the soldiers than to the people of the country. Even at the time of the organization of the Peninsula campaign, some of the finest regiments were without rifles, nor were the utmost exertions on the part of the military authorities adequate to overcome the obstacles to active service. When at length the army was in condition to take the field, the Peninsula campaign was planned and entered upon with enthusiasm by officers and men. Had this campaign been followed up as it was designed, I cannot doubt that it would have resulted in a glorious triumph to our arms, and the permanent restoration of the power of the Government in Virginia and North Carolina, if not throughout the revolted States. It was, however, otherwise ordered, and the Army of the Potomac was recalled from within sight of Richmond and incorporated with the Army of Virginia. The disappointments of the campaign on the Peninsula had not damped their ardor or diminished their patriotism. They fought well, faithfully, gallantly, under Gen. Pope; yet when most demoralized, the enemy, instead of defeated and almost guarding his own capital, poured his troops northward, entered Maryland, threatened Pennsylvania, and even Washington itself. Elated by his recent victories, and assured that our troops were disorganized and dispirited, he was confident that the seat of war was now permanently transferred to the loyal States, and that his own exhausted soil was to be relieved from the burden of supporting two hostile armies. But he did not understand the spirit which animated the soldiers of the Union. I shall not, nor can I, living, forget that when I was ordered to the command of the troops for the defense of the capital, the soldiers, with whom I had shared so much of the anxiety and pain and suffering of the war, had not lost their confidence in me as their commander. They sprang to my call with all their ancient vigor, discipline, and courage. I led them into Maryland. Fifteen days after they had fallen back defeated before Washington, they vanquished the enemy on the rugged hights of South Mountain, pursued to the hard-fought field of Antietam, and drove him, broken and disappointed, across the Potomac, into Virginia. The army had need of rest after the terrible experience of battles and marches, with scarcely an interval of repose, which they had gone through from the time of leaving the Peninsula, the return to Washington, the defeat in Virginia, the victory at South Mountain, and again at Antietam. It was not surprising that they were in a large degree destitute of the absolute necessaries to effective duty. Shoes were worn out, and blankets were lost; clothing was in rags; in short, the army was unfit for active service, and an interval for rest and equipment was necessary. When the slowly-forwarded supplies came to us I led the army across the river, renovated, refreshed, in good order and discipline, and followed the retreating foe to a position where I was confident of decisive victory; when, in the midst of the movement, while my advance guard was actually in contact with the enemy, I was removed from the command. * * * Instead of reporting a victorious campaign, it has been my duty to relate the heroism of a reduced army, sent upon an expedition into an enemy's country, there to abandon one and to originate another new plan of campaign, which might and would have been successful if supported with appreciation of its necessities, but which failed because of the repeated failure of promised support at the most critical, and, it proved, the most fatal moments. That heroism surpasses ordinary description. Its illustration must be left for the pen of the historian in times of calm reflection, when the nation shall be looking back to the past from the midst of peaceful days. For me now it is sufficient to say that my comrades were victors in every field save one, and there the endurance of a single corps accomplished the object of its fighting, and by securing to the army its transit to the James River, left to the enemy a ruinous and barren victory.

SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS OF DECEASED SOLDIERS.

How it is Done, and How it is Not Done.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, 1863.

The subject of the settlement of the accounts of deceased officers and soldiers with the Government can never be an uninteresting one to the present generation. Certain statements lately put forth in the columns of influential public journals have awakened an unusual interest in it, and if the general ignorance of the subject is to be measured by the darkness shed upon it by the newspaper discussions referred to, surely the public will be benefited by an explanation of the existing system. Not long since the Washington correspondent of *The N. Y. Times* put forth the following statement, which has been widely copied, and variously commented upon:

"The rejection of the widows' demand for this back pay, or that of her agents, is notoriously an event of daily occurrence at the War Department. * * * Among the duties of Congress in the very first week of the next session is to force upon the War Department a system of paying debts due to deceased soldiers," &c.

It is hardly worth while to comment upon the intelligence of a person residing at the seat of Government, and assuming to instruct others, who does not know that the duty of settling all claims for the back pay of deceased officers and soldiers is devolved by law upon the Second Auditor, and that the Second Auditor is an officer of the Treasury, and not of the War Department. This fact seems to have leaked out in some way, for another correspondent of *The N. Y. Times*, in its issue of the 26th ultimo, sheds a gleam of light on the subject by seeking to shift the blame of the delay in settling these accounts upon some Bureau of the War Department, alleging that the regimental rolls, upon which the Second Auditor depends for official information of service and death, are greatly in arrears, and specifying thirty Illinois regiments whose rolls for July and August, 1862, are still behindhand.

The Second Auditor of the Treasury is the Public Administrator of the Army. The law under which he is furnished, and promptly furnished, with official information of casualties in the army, and of the state of the pay accounts of deceased soldiers, dates back to 1792. This law provides that the bi-monthly rolls, known in the army as the "muster-rolls-for-pay," shall, immediately after the payment of a regiment, battalion, or corps, be turned over to the "Accountant of the War Department." This office of "Accountant of the War Department" is now obsolete, and the Second Auditor stands in the place of such officer as to the business under consideration; and, as a matter of fact, the rolls are placed at his disposal as soon after each payment as they can be transmitted to Washington. The law gives the Paymaster just ten days to forward the rolls, and all his other accounts, to the Auditor, under penalty of being deemed a defaulter, and of being proceeded against as such under the act of Aug. 6, 1846, which provides that if convicted he may be imprisoned for ten years, and fined for the whole amount of money in default. These rolls correspond exactly with those sent to the Adjutant-General's Office, except that the latter do not exhibit the "pay tables" which are essential to enable the Auditor to ascertain the state of the soldier's accounts.

This law has been found impracticable so far as it applies to the pay department, for the reason that after a regiment in the field has been paid, the rolls have to be retained to pay soldiers in hospital, on furlough, or detached service, and it not unfrequently happens, also, that a paymaster, after completing these duties, has to draw two or three thousand allotment checks, and mail them to the families of soldiers—a task which occupies considerable time. Moreover, army movements are so uncertain and arbitrary, that a set of paymasters who have begun to pay off a corps in the field may be ordered to the rear with their funds for an indefinite time by the Commanding General, when their work is only half finished. For these and other reasons, the Second Controller of the Treasury has decided that the act of July 17, 1862, requiring monthly returns to the Auditor, is inapplicable to the pay department.

After the paymaster has surmounted all the obstacles of a physical nature, and has brought the rolls to the proper shape, he sends them to the Paymaster-General, in whose office they are subject to the call of the Second Auditor *at any time*, and, in default of any call from the latter, they are sent to him as soon as they can be examined. The examination of the rolls at the Paymaster-General's office is made really to facilitate and expedite the business of the Auditor by correcting the mistakes which will, inevitably, be made by many of the three hundred and fifty paymasters, of no previous experience, appointed from civil life, or from the volunteer forces. The statement that the Second Auditor has been delayed at all by the retention of rolls by paymasters, or by the Paymaster-General, is untrue, for the reason that the Auditor is at the present time settling the claims of the heirs of deceased soldiers only to August and September, whereas the rolls have been forwarded to the Auditor by the Paymaster-General up to the middle of 1863, with a few exceptions where delays have occurred by reason of the loaning of vouchers to the Auditor in advance of a complete examination at the Paymaster-General's office. It will not be denied by anybody acquainted with the facts that the pay department is fully seven months ahead of the Second Auditor in the business under consideration, and as before stated, it is optional with the Auditor to require from the Paymaster-General all the rolls in his hands at any time.

The statement that the rolls of thirty Illinois regiments are eighteen months behind is simply false, and not only so, but absurdly false. It is equivalent to saying that thirty Illinois regiments have remained unpaid for more than a year. Secretary Chase has often assured us, within the year, that he was actually paying the soldiers, and everybody knows that if this number of men had been kept without pay for the length of time here stated, there would have been an outcry bordering on revolution in the gallant State from which these men marched to the field. Being paid, the rolls could not have been delayed eighteen months, or half of that time, without the grossest dereliction of duty on the part of the Second Auditor, whose business it would be to report the defaulting officers for dismissal and prosecution.

The 13th Article of War requires that these rolls shall show all the changes that have occurred in the command since the last previous rolls were returned, whether occasioned by death, desertion, sickness, wounds, furlough, capture, or otherwise. The Auditor receives this information as soon as the Adjutant-General, and as completely. So far as this goes, neither depends upon the other for anything; and it is calculated that the great majority of cases upon which the Auditor is required to act are provided for in this way.

So much for the regular routine whereby official information is furnished to the Auditor to enable him to adjust these accounts. Let us look at the exceptional cases. A soldier obtains a furlough, goes home, and dies. At the expiration of his furlough, he is reported on the rolls as a deserter; all trace of him is lost both in the Adjutant-General's office and that of the Auditor. It then devolves upon his heirs to furnish the Auditor conclusive evidence of his identity and of his death at such a date.

The evidence of his having been a soldier will be found on all the rolls subsequent to his original muster. Another soldier falls into the hands of the enemy and dies in one of their hospitals; or is killed in battle, and buried by the enemy on the field. He is reported "missing" on the rolls, and from sheer lack of evidence the Auditor is obliged to refuse payment of the arrears due him, until a sufficient time shall have elapsed to create a presumptive evidence of his death.

In such a case the Adjutant-General has no more information than the Auditor—in the nature of the case, he cannot have more. If he gets any information of the decease of a soldier who has been reported "missing," he furnishes a copy of it at once to the Auditor. He does not wait to be called on, but furnishes it as soon as it can be copied.

The Adjutant-General receives reports of deaths in hospitals, mortality lists after battles, and inventories of the effects of persons who have deceased in the service. These are promptly and carefully copied and sent to the Second Auditor, and it thus happens that in multitudes of cases the Auditor has double evidence of the soldier's death and of the date of his death—first, on the bi-monthly rolls, and second, on the mortality list from the field. Further than this, the Adjutant-General furnishes to the Second Auditor, upon the call of that officer, any information in his office relating to the military history of officers and soldiers, and he answers these questions, not after a lapse of twelve or eighteen months, as has been insinuated, but within twenty-four hours after they are propounded. For the purpose of being enabled to answer such questions he keeps up an immense correspondence with officers in the field who may have neglected to forward papers which they should have forwarded, and not unfrequently he reports delinquent officers for dismissal.

I do not say that there has or has not been unreasonable delay in settling the claims of widows and heirs of deceased soldiers. The army of the United States has grown suddenly from 17,000 to 1,700,000 men, if we count all who have been in the service, for various terms, since the beginning of the war. Claims have to be settled, when properly presented, for all who have died of disease or wounds, from the three months militia of 1861 to the latest colored regiment mustered into service. It would not be surprising if some delay should occur in the settlement of individual accounts where the aggregate is so great; yet a nation which has raised and maintained so vast an army ought to be equal to the task of keeping its accounts up, and of paying to the bereaved heirs, *promptly*, the sums due their deceased relatives. The army is one hundred times larger than it was on the 4th of March, 1861. The Second Auditor's office is perhaps twice as large as it was then. The Adjutant-General's office employs five times as many clerks as it did then, and I affirm, without fear of contradiction, that no office or bureau of this Government, or of any Government, discharges all of its appropriate duties more promptly and faithfully and courteously than that of the Adjutant-General of the army.

The comparison sought to be instituted between the system followed in settling the accounts of deceased *sailors* and that under consideration is eminently foolish, for the reason that the sailor is always under the eye of his paymaster and captain. If he dies on shipboard, or is killed in action, it is immediately known. If he falls overboard and is not recovered, of course he is drowned. He cannot be reported "missing," because if the vessel is at sea, the very term implies that he is dead. He cannot, except at long intervals, get a furlough; he cannot desert; he cannot, except on rare occasions, be taken prisoner by the enemy. The proper officer must, in the nature of the case, know everything which is necessary to be known to enable the Fourth Auditor to settle the claim of his heirs immediately. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that the whole number of persons who have died in the naval service since the beginning of the war is not equal to the loss of soldiers occasioned by a single battle.

How shall the present system be improved without opening the doors to immense frauds upon the Government? This is a question worthy the attention of the Departments and of Congress. Frauds to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars were perpetrated after the close of the Mexican war by claim agents, who procured the back pay and land-warrants of deceased soldiers two or three times over.

The question to be presented to the Second Auditor is one of evidence purely, and so far as there is any fault in the present system, it relates to the procuring and presenting proper evidence. Is the claimant the real person entitled to receive the back pay and bounty? Is the soldier dead? The latter question is generally answered by the bi-monthly rolls, as already indicated. The cases where the rolls do not, and cannot, furnish the necessary evidence, and where the hospital returns, mortality lists and inventories are silent, require a special remedy. If the Auditor states that the papers presented in a particular case are in proper form, and then delays sixteen months, or one month, to settle the claim, it proves either that the work in his office is so much behind, or that the case before him is one of those exceptional ones where all of the above sources of information fail to show the death of the soldier. If the former, which I understand to be the fact, then the remedy is to be found in an increase of the force of his office.

It would be well for Congress to make the inquiry: 1st, whether the business of the Auditor's office is so far behind as has been represented; 2d, whether all the clerks authorized by law have been employed in his office; 3d, whether application was made to Congress at the last session for the number of clerks necessary to keep up the business. Let there be a full exposition from official data, and let the blame, if there be blame, rest where it belongs. If it rests with the Second Auditor, let the fact be known. If it rests with the Adjutant-General, or the Postmaster of Washington, or the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, let the proper functionary be pointed out.

While the subject of providing remedies is under consideration it should be borne in mind that the applicants for back pay and bounty are generally poor, and almost universally ignorant of the forms necessary to be followed to establish their own identity. The amounts due them are generally small, and hence they ought to get the whole, and not be compelled to divide with claim agents. No system will be perfect which shall fail to furnish the claimant, free of expense to himself, not only the information which he may require from the various bureaus, but the identical papers to be signed, sealed, and sworn to, so that he cannot possibly err.

The subject is one not only of immediate and pressing importance, but of lasting interest to tens of thousands who, in giving their husbands, fathers and sons, have given their all to their country.

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

American Institute Farmers' Club.

TUESDAY, Dec. 15—This was a pleasant day and a pleasant meeting. The business was of a miscellaneous character, principally growing out of "letters from the people," read by SOLON ROBINSON, of which he makes the following report:

Preserving Apples by Condensing.—A. STEINBACH writes from Evansville, Ind., and sends a sample of condensed apple pulp, made in Prussia five years ago, and still in an eatable condition; and Mr. S. thinks that it would be useful for people in this country, where fruit is abundant, to put it up in the same way for the use of sailors. We judge from the looks of the article that it is pulped, pressed and baked, as it has much of the appearance of manufactured tobacco, and some of the Club thought it had a little of the same taste. It is said, however, to be very healthy and palatable when cooked, and that it keeps in this condition much better than in the usual manner of drying apples.

Increasing Value of Oak Timber.—A friend at the West, thinks that farmers generally, and particularly those who own timber land, should be informed of the greatly increased value of oak timber. He says:

"The extent of the oil trade in Pennsylvania, may be inferred from the sweep taken for barrel timber. A single firm in the oil barrel business, are this Winter getting out three million feet of oak in North-Eastern Wisconsin, and have already erected buildings for the machinery to prepare it for shipping. Good oak timber lands up the Allegany river and branches, have appreciated wonderfully in value in the past two years. Oak timber has been lately sold in that part of New-York State for oil barrels, at $8 per 1,000 feet board measure, 'on the stump,' where formerly, or say three years since, $2 per 1,000 feet was the highest price thought of. Verily, 'Great is King Oleum.'"

In other places the draft upon oak timber for shipwrights has enhanced its value more than as above stated. Every farmer who has a young oak growing where it will not interfere with his crops, may consider that he has a valuable deposit in bank, at interest for his children, in the growth of that oak tree.

Inquiries about Manure for Fruit Trees.—Mr. BIRD, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, asks the following questions:

First: What chemical elements of the soil are exhausted in the cultivation of nursery trees and shrubbery?

Second: Will the application of barn-yard manure restore to the soil the elements thus exhausted by the cultivation of nursery stock? or,

Third: What additional application beside barn-yard manure is necessary to restore said exhaustion?

A. S. FULLER replied, that as a general rule it may be said that the cultivation of ground in trees will exhaust all the elements, though slowly. Dr. TRIMBLE says that result would follow only in poor soil. In relation to the question about manure, the general opinion is that barn-yard manure does contain all the elements necessary to restore any soil to fertility, but he has found, in cultivating nursery trees a good many years, that such manure induces a large growth of wood and foliage, but it is not as healthy a growth as when made by some other substance, such as a compost of wood mold, leaves, &c. Some soils that are exhausted can certainly be restored quicker by other fertilizers than by barn-yard manure. As to the third question, no one can answer that, because two fields, only divided by a fence or road, may require an entirely different treatment.

WM. S. CARPENTER remarked that he had had a good [illegible] of experience in growing trees upon a worn-out [illegible] and he has found that it requires more potash than is contained in barn-yard manure, and he has therefore found an application of wood-ashes, at a price not exceeding twenty-five cents a bushel, the most economical [fertilizer] that he could apply to a young orchard.

[Corn]-stalks as Fodder.—A farmer who says he profits by reading the discussions of this Club, thinks that [corn]stalks should be kept, if possible, in a moist condition. If no better place can be found, make a long [stack] with the butts to the weather on each side, when perhaps they will do to fodder till Spring. Corn-stalks contain so much valuable nutriment for cattle, especially milch cows, that a proper method of curing and saving and feeding them would be very acceptable. Cutting dry stalks in a machine for feed is still worse than feeding them whole, as more likely to induce cattle to eat the indigestible stalks. He had a cow which he thinks was materially injured by this kind of feed, the stalks being very dry and hard when fed.

DR. TRIMBLE said he had seen a great many cornstalks fed to cattle, but never saw them willing to eat the butts of the stalk unless driven to it by starvation, and he thought that a pretty strong evidence that they contained little or no nutriment.

Another member said that he had fed the stalks of [sw]eet-corn most successfully, the cattle eating the whole, and apparently digesting their food perfectly. [He c]uts them in a No. 2 Eureka machine, which cost $50, and not only cuts but mashes the stalk, and the [stuf]f is fed mixed with bran and water.

M. BROWN, Chelsea, Mich., writes his opinion of [stalk]s as feed—that they are worth, when cut in this [way], as much per ton as uncut hay.

Mr. CARPENTER said—I have satisfied myself that [stalk]s cut green and chaffed are more worth, ton for ton, than the best timothy hay. A ton of cut stalks will [go t]wice as long as a ton fed whole. One of my neighbors cuts and steams his stalks, and finds great advantage [in] that practice. I find one ton of cut stalks will [keep] cattle thirty days. As we double the value by [cutting], I believe it more than pays the expense.

[SOLON] ROBINSON contended that the but-stalks of [corn] which have ripened the ears, contain no more nutriment than any other woody fiber, and are really not as valuable as the twigs of any sweet wood, for instance, [birch] or maple, would be if passed through a chaffing-machine and prepared in the same way as Mr. Carpenter says he prepares his stalks. If the stalks are cut [while] the green corn and well cured, and fed before they [lose] all their moisture, they are really very nutritious; [and] if the corn is cut from the ground while still [green], and set up in shocks to ripen the ears, the butts [will] contain some nutriment. But even then it is a very [doubt]ful question whether those of the large varieties of [corn] will pay for the expense of passing them through a [cutting] machine.

[Anot]her member said that he had experimented considerably upon corn-stalks with a view of testing their [value] as food for cattle. He has always noticed that [green] stalks have a pleasant, sweet flavor, but those [left] upon the grain, when dry have no taste, and [ap]pear quite innutritious. If they are ripened in the [field] he is sure they are quite indigestable, no matter how they are prepared to induce cattle to eat them. After corn is glazed, the stalks, if to be used as fodder, should be immediately cut and cured above the ground. He has found by experience that he can do this at $1 per acre, by putting rails upon forked stakes through the field, and then laying the stalks upon them. When upon the ground to cure, unless the weather is unusually favorable, they will sour before they are dry enough to put in stacks.

Pears—Virgalieu—Grafting.—A gentleman present inquired what he should do with a lot of Virgalieu pear trees which he has just planted out, as he has been told that planting them that he cannot produce this variety near the sea shore.

ALDEN ELY said—It is an error to say they will not produce fruit near the sea shore, though I suppose they are uncertain, for I have a tree growing very near the salt water that does produce excellent pears.

Dr. TRIMBLE said—I have seen Virgalieus this year in several places in this vicinity that were entirely healthy.

Mr. FULLER said that might be the case, but he could not recommend the gentleman to grow the trees expecting to get good fruit, because, as it is well known, the Virgalieu pear for several years past has almost universally failed.

The gentleman said—What, then, would you have me to do?

Mr. FULLER replied—Graft other varieties; and, in answer to the question when? replied that he would do it at once.

Mr. CARPENTER said that he would not graft the first year. He would let them grow one year, and then graft one-third and the remainder in the two succeeding years.

JOHN G. BERGEN said—My experience is that it is better to graft the first year. If the trees are planted in Autumn I would graft them the next Spring. This is particularly the case with the cherry.

Mr. FULLER said that he would transplant and graft at the same time, cutting off two-thirds of the top, unless in case where the trees had been transported a long distance or kept out of ground until the limbs were too dry to graft. Nine-tenths of the nursery trees are so much injured by drying, that most of the top and buds should be pruned away. If trees are grafted when they are transplanted, the growth of the graft is slower, but more healthy and sure to live.

Mr. BERGEN is sure that more grafts will live set in [tr]ansplanted trees than in trees that are not removed. As to the Virgalieu, it is not a safe variety to plant, yet I know trees which produce good crops of excellent fruit every year. There are some other sorts that are not to be depended upon—the Vicar of Winkfield is one that does not rank high in my estimation.

Mr. FULLER said that he esteemed it the highest among 400 sorts that he had grown.

A Plea for the Isabella Grape.—GEO. W. GAGE writes from Sinclairville, Chautauqua Co., as follows:

"In your Club discussion, held Nov. 23, you say you are glad to give others the opportunity to speak freely. I accept the offer. At that meeting, while talking over the merits of the Isabella Grape, you observe that it is a great waste of gas to try to keep up the balloon that has so long held the Isabella Grape above all other sorts, and charge its friends with great sensitiveness whenever its merits are questioned. Now, I am not going to waste much gas in an effort to keep up the balloon you mention. Neither do I feel any great sensitiveness on the subject, much preferring that the Isabella and all other sorts should stand upon their own merits, neither attempting to disparage nor extol their qualities, not considering the judgment or taste or interest of any one or two individuals as conclusive in the matter. The Isabella has been in cultivation in this country for many years, and continues to hold a fair rank among the many varieties more recently introduced. The Diana, Concord, and Delaware, and many others, are cultivated in our vicinity, all good, but the old Isabella holds on hardy and vigorous, and giving abundant crops, and as yet the [illegible] have not enjoyed a very large share. I know of but one instance in this country where the Isabella has been threatened with extinction, and in that case the Concord was to be its successor—the Diana and Delaware were eschewed. The adjoining vineyard of fifteen [illegible] still holds on to the Isabella. Among those with whom I am acquainted no one considers himself disturbed by the quantity or quality of the Isabella, which can hardly be said of those kinds more recently introduced. But what I wish to ask is, who inflated the Isabella balloon? A. J. Downing, Chas. Downing, P. Barry, John Phin, and Dr. G. P. Norris of Delaware, have each, I think, furnished a portion of gas—all speak highly of it, and place it in their select lists. Now, contrasting what they say with what you say of the Isabella, what can we say? You say the Isabella is not even third rate. Mr. Phin published his book in 1862, and, if I am not mistaken, was well puffed in THE TRIBUNE. Dr. Norris furnished his article to the Patent-Office in 1861. These gentlemen could not be ignorant of the new varieties you mention as first rate, nor of the merits of the Isabella, and if that grape is as insignificant and insipid as you say it is, how, if honest, could they at this late day recommend it so highly, and thus impose upon the public? Does it not look as though interest or dishonesty was peeping out somewhere? Again, how is it that your Club has been so slow to give the public warning of the worthless character of the Isabella. It has been in cultivation more than thirty years at the North, and all that time open to criticism, but not until thousands and tens of thousands of dollars have been expended in purchasing, planting, and cultivating this worthless grape does the warning come. Saul held the clothes of Stephen and consenting stood looking on while the mob stoned him to death! If Dr. Ward wishes to destroy his Isabella vines no one out here will object."

SOLON ROBINSON—I am not going to reply to this letter; those who read it will judge how far the writer has made out his case, and whether he has used any gas, and whether he is sensitive upon the subject. I will simply inquire what the owners of Isabella vineyards are to do with their fruit when they cannot find a market for it, as it certainly is not a good wine-grape. I have never said that it is not a passably good grape, when fully ripe, though it is inferior to half a dozen other sorts, which will ripen where it will not. And I do say that many of the Isabellas sold in this city are unfit to eat, and more failures have occurred in planting Isabellas than all other sorts.

Mr. CARPENTER said that the time will come when the writer of that letter, and others who so strenuously recommend the Isabella as the best of grapes, will be laughed at, the improved varieties are so far a head.

Mr. BERGEN said that he should still defend the Isabella, because it does give satisfaction in many localities. As to its quality, that is a matter of taste. Mr. Mead says that a person cannot eat freely of this sort without getting a sore tongue. This I deny; I can eat them all day and not make mine sore. I say there are very few better grapes than this when it is fully ripe, and so the National Pomological Convention must have thought, or it would not have retained it upon its list. It has been thirty years in cultivation, and if the new sorts stand as long I shall be glad. With me the Delaware is a very small fruit, and the Clinton, that I thought so hardy, rotted this year. It is the hight of absurdity to discard an old, well-tried sort until we have proved the substitute.

Mr. CARPENTER said that the Pomological Convention did not recommend the Isabella at its last session, but instead of that gave the localities where its cultivation proved successful, and it bore relations to other sorts as follows: Isabella, 14; Delaware, 22; Concord, 22; Allen's Hybrid, 21, and several others sorts which succeeded in more States or parts of States than the Isabella. Mr. Carpenter said that he had no interest, except that of his earnest wish to see grape culture succeed, to induce him to oppose the planting of Isabella vineyards. He certainly could not recommend a friend to plant a variety which he does not believe has proved fully successful at the rate of one vine to every one hundred planted. And the general failure of the vines to remain healthy, and failure to ripen fruit so as to satisfy those who grow it, as other varieties have done, has certainly done a vast amount of injury to vine culture in this country. If there had been no failures—no sad losses, by those who have started vineyards of Isabella vines, there would have been a thousand vines producing good fruit where there is not one now. Many persons have become so disgusted in their attempts to grow Isabellas, in my neighborhood, that they will not listen to a suggestion to try any of the new varieties, which so far have given eminent satisfaction.

A. S. FULLER—If there are localities where the Isabella succeeds so as to give satisfaction, there let it be cultivated; but pray let us urge its friends to try some other sorts, and not be satisfied with this if there are better ones. If that will grow, and you cannot grow anything better, I beg all to grow that—grow grapes of some kind—if nothing else, grow a wild fox vine, and let it run over an apple tree. And if you cannot learn to cultivate a nursery vine after the most approved method, still let me urge you to plant it, and let it run wild; it will produce some good fruit. Several sorts, such as Concord, Hartford Prolific, etc., will grow in a sort of wild way and produce fruit that is better that none. Anything, even the most foxy wilding, is better than nothing. Plant something. If one fails, try another. One will succeed in one place and fail in another. I esteem the Delaware as the most trustworthy of all, yet that has failed; and at best it is a sort of dandy as compared with the robust Concord. The Clinton is considered one of the most hardy of all, yet here is Mr. Bergen to tell us that it rotted with him this year. But that should not deter his next-door neighbor from trying it. But what I wish to say to every owner of a foot of American soil, is, plant a vine. Do not fail to grow grapes for your family. If one sort fails, another will succeed. If all fail this year, do not be discouraged and give up, but hope for success another year.

How to make Cisterns in Springy Ground.—A few weeks since a correspondent asked for information to enable him to prevent the spring water from forcing its way through the freshly made walls of his cistern. S. D. Newbro of Lansing, Mich., answers this question. He says: "If any body will follow the accompanying directions they can make a cistern in springy ground, and even cement against a spring that lets in water fast as one man can pump it out, provided the fountain-head is not so high as to cause the water to overflow the top of the cistern. Of course, when the water in the cistern stands on a level with the fountain-head, there is no motion anywhere to interfere with the cementing process. You will confer a favor on the public by publishing.

Dig a hole of the best shape to suit the nature of the ground. If the ground is sandy, and cannot be plastered, then of course make a wall of brick or stone, laid in lime mortar, using extra care. If the ground is sufficiently clayey not to cave, then plaster upon the bare earth. The water will come in of course—and if it comes very fast, it may be necessary to keep it pumped out till the plastering sets—say from three to six hours. Then let the cistern fill and everything rest for a few days. The plastering will be hard. Pump out and plaster again so that the two coats will make everything secure except where the springs prevent. Keep pumping the water out for a few hours till the mortar sets; then let the cistern fill. Rest a few days. Don't pump out the water then, but sprinkle or sift into the water from a peck to two bushels of dry water lime over the bottom of the cistern, and especially over the leak-holes. The lime will settle and cement every hole effectually. Rest a week and pump out the water. If the spring-holes are in the sides, build up some kind of staging of material that will not float. Let the cistern fill. Then sprinkle in the water-lime so that it will settle on the top of the staging opposite the spring-holes. A piece of sheet iron may be laid over the hole and a little distance from it, and held there by a crowbar; and after the cistern fills, the water-lime may be introduced so as to settle behind the sheet iron and cement the leak."

Places for Homes in the West.—W. H. GARDNER of Fort Howard, Wisconsin, offers to answer the inquiries of Eastern men who are seeking for homes in the West, if they will inclose prepaid envelopes. He says:

"This portion of Wisconsin, with a first class wheat soil, a very healthy climate, and water and railroad communication, offers good advantages to actual settlers in Dore, Brown, Oconto, and other counties. Lumbering is carried on to a great extent all along Green Bay, and a good home market consumes all the local produce. Lumbermen are paying from $1 to $2 dollars per day and board for men, and $12 to $20 per ton for hay. Corn $1 per bushel. Minnesota also offers good lands for settlers."

Another writer recommends those desirous of finding places for homes in the West, to write to the Register or Receiver of the United States Land-Office at Council Bluffs, Iowa. That District embraces nearly thirteen counties of very desirable land, much of which is subject to be taken under the provisions of the Homestead act, or entered at $1 25 an acre, or, if near the line of several railroads, at $2 50 per acre.

"These lands," the writer says, "are all fertile and well watered, and will make fine farms either for grain or stock-raising. They are nearly all surrounded by, or in the immediate vicinity of considerable settlements, with school-houses already built, and county and township organizations fully perfected. Has there ever been offered in any age or country such an opportunity as is here presented to secure rich and fertile homesteads almost 'without money and without price,' as a tract of 80 or 160 acres can be secured by an actual settler for only twelve dollars?"

An Improved Cultivator.—EPHRAIM BRIGGS, Medina, Ohio, sends us a cut of an improved cultivator, which certainly looks to be what he thinks it is, an improvement upon all its predecessors, and in asking such notice of it as it may be thought worthy of, he says that he believes "the farming community will be more benefitted by it than I shall, although I am a poor mechanic and not able to employ the necessary means to bring it properly before the public," and he wants to know if it is in accordance with the plans of this Farmers' Club to test new improvements in farm implements, and then, if found worthy, to commend them to others. Such should be one of the objects of every Farmers' Club, and this has frequently been the case here, and as frequently, if the article deserved it, it has received a pretty severe condemnation. Of this improvement Mr. Briggs says:

"It has been my study for quite a number of years to get up a cultivator that could be so shifted and changed as to do all the work in the different stages of the crop with one machine. How well I have succeeded you will, of course, be able to judge after having fairly tested one of my machines." It appears to be made of five teeth, like small shovel plows, so arranged as to make the cultivator wide or narrow, at will, and to turn the dirt to or from the rows, and Mr. B. says: "It will do as much and as good work going once as a common mold board plow at twice. Beside cultivating, it has been found an excellent potato digger. The front shovel is about five inches wide, and the hind one about eight. The two outside shovels, when placed together, would make a large shovel plow blade, and are all made of steel. The implement weighs about fifty pounds, and the draft is light in proportion to the work that it does. Three of the best farmers in our county planted their corn with it this year, and say it saved them the labor of at least two hands." Now, whether this is all so, this Club cannot say, but it may enable others to prove the case, and it may help a "poor mechanic" to do good to farmers by his inventive skill.

WOOL-GROWERS' CONVENTION.

Sheep Farming—American Merinos in Europe—American Agricultural Museum in Hamburg.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 6, 1864.

Yesterday and to-day have been devoted to the Wool-Growers' Convention. The Convention has been held in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol and has been largely attended by the sheep farmers of the State. During yesterday there was a spirited discussion upon these three questions, viz: How best to protect sheep from dogs? Is washing sheep advantageous? Is the tariff on foreign wool adequate protection to the American producer? These questions were well discussed by Gov. Brown of Massachusetts, Mr. McClung, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Bell, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Delano, and others of Ohio.

It appeared from a statement made by Mr. Montgomery, that the loss to sheep owners from dogs in the State of Ohio amounted to $200,000 per year. The number of dogs returned by the assessors amounts to 175,000; but Mr. Montgomery claimed that there were no less than half a million in the State. Lieut.-Gov. Stanton made an able and effective address upon the tariff, claiming that it was not sufficient to protect the great and growing interest of sheep husbandry.

In the evening, an address was given by Col. Daniel Needham of Vermont, who was the Commissioner from Vermont to the great International Exhibition at Hamburg. The subject of Col. Needham's address was "the triumph of the Vermont sheep at the International Exhibition." His address was listened to by a large audience with great interest. In the course of his address he made use of the following language, in speaking of the American Exhibitor—Mr. Campbell. To "George Campbell of Vermont, belongs all the honor that attended the success of the American Merinos. All American breeders of stock were invited; but among them all, only one man dared to venture with live stock across the great oceans. He took twelve little sheep—six bucks and six ewes, and surprised all Europe with the fact that America contained better Merinos than all the world beside; and not only did he surprise Europe but America also, which never before had dared to claim for herself the leading position in the production of stock-breeding Merinos. These sheep were of Mr. Campbell's own breeding; and the fact that they took from the best flocks of Germany and France the two first premiums, is an honor of which America may well be proud." Col. Needham alluded to the great interest taken in the Exhibition by Mr. Baldwin of New-York, and Gov. Wright of Indiana, who was appointed as a Commissioner by the President. He said that a museum of American agricultural implements at Hamburg was one of the results of the exhibition. That the contribution made by the German citizens of New-York, of a large variety of American-made agricultural implements formed the nucleus, and that a building had been set apart in Hamburg for the permanent exhibition of these and all other agricultural implements of American manufacture which might from time to time be donated. He closed his address with a comparison of our country with the European countries which he visited, saying, that with civil war on our hands, we were vastly better off than the aristocratic Governments of the Old World.

To-day has been devoted to meetings of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture. The discussions have been quite interesting, and a general invitation was given to outsiders to participate.

This evening an address was given by Henry S. Randall, LL. D., of New-York, editor of Sheep Husbandry, the Practical Shepherd, &c., &c.

Mr. Randall's address was well attended and listened to with great satisfaction. He argued that the sheep interest of the country was on the increase and likely to be, although wool and sheep would, in the future, have the depressions that they had suffered in the past. He also argued that the cotton culture of the country, after the Rebellion, would be of more absorbing interest than ever before; that cotton culture was a healthy occupation, and might be engaged in by white as well as black labor. His address abounded in figures, and no sketch of it would do it justice. It is to be printed by the Convention.

At the close thanks were tendered to Dr. Randall and Col. Needham, and the Convention adjourned without day.

COTTON PLANTATIONS IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

Letters from the Hon. Henry T. Blow and from the President of the Western Sanitary Commission.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Some weeks ago I published, for information, a very interesting letter from "An Officer at Goodrich's Landing," in regard to the profit of working the abandoned cotton plantations of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Since the republication of that letter in many of our leading papers, I have received so many inquires from all parts of the United States, especially the Northern, that I determined to pursue the subject in all its *branches*, with a view of urging our Government to a more comprehensive policy and system on the leasing and working of these lands, and one that would secure to the colored laborer not only protection for his person, but a fair remuneration for his services. I regret that our Government has not finished its investigations and extended its policy, as I am satisfied that the Freedmen in the section where these abandoned plantations are worked are in many cases grossly maltreated and swindled, and that if the facts were known a long record of imposition would be made against parties who should have treated them with humanity and fed and paid them fairly.

Gen. J. P. Hawkins, the author of the letter alluded to, feeling the delicacy of his position, declined coming before the public with his experience, but considerately placed some of the numerous letters received in the possession of Mr. James E. Yeatman, President of the Sanitary Commission of St. Louis, who was at that time examining into the condition of the Freedmen on their cotton plantations. Mr. Yeatman is a gentleman whose philanthropy and enlarged views have made his name familiar to the country, and as he has had experience in the culture of cotton, having controlled and worked one of the finest plantations in Milliken's Bend before the Rebellion, the parties interested can rely implicitly on his statements and advice contained in the following letter. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Washington, Jan. 3, 1864. HENRY T. BLOW.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21, 1863.

To the Hon. HENRY T. BLOW, Washington City:

MY DEAR SIR: The letters sent by you to Gen. Hawkins making inquiry in regard to leasing plantations, were inclosed to me by the Gen. with request that I would give the desired information.

The Government must first adopt the policy of leasing small farms, say from 50 to 200 or 300 acres to suit the convenience and means of persons desiring to lease. This should be done as speedily as possible, and publicly announced, as leases should be made by the 1st of February, or very soon thereafter, as the land should be plowed and cotton all planted by the 1st of April.

Parties proposing to lease these lands, should take with them everything deemed necessary, as nothing is to be had in the country except labor. Say for a farm of 100 acres, five or six good mules will be required, one good wagon, four plows, hoes and such other farming implements as may be necessary. They should also take with them, or arrange to have sent from time to time, feed for mules, sufficient to last six or eight months until the corn and fodder which they would grow, would be ready for use. Also some provisions, good bacon or pork and corn to make meal and hominy. Also good material for negro clothing, such as heavy brogans, linseys, Jeans and Osnaburgs. Under present system of leasing the wages of a negro is $7 per month, women $5; the lessee finding them and such persons as are immediately dependent on them. The ration furnished per week under the lease system is four pounds of pork or bacon, or six pounds of fresh or salt beef, ten pounds of corn meal or six pounds of flour, two pounds of beans, peas, rice or hominy and one pint of molasses. I hope to see some changes in the present system, that is, better pay for the laborer, and that the laborer should feed and clothe himself and family. Hands can be procured, but mostly women and young boys, although I doubt not that large numbers of able-bodied men will come in, so soon as they know that permanent arrangements are made for employing them. The wages should be increased at least to the former hire of the slave when cotton was worth but 10 cents per pound, the laborer to feed and clothe himself. I give herewith an estimate for the entire expenses of stocking and working 100 acres of land with product of same. The estimates are all liberal, and based on one hand to twelve acres of land, which is more than allowed under present lease system, but less than was allowed under slave labor:

Six mules will cost at $125 each	$750
One good wagon and harness	200
Four plows and harness	100
Other farming implements and tares	100—$1,150
Wages of eight hands to cultivate land at $25 [illegible] month	2,400
Eight month's feed for mules, at 70c. [illegible] day	1,152
Bagging, rope, and twine	150
Tax on cotton	300
Tax on corn	60
Total	$5,243
100 acres, less 25 acres planted in corn, would produce one bale of cotton to the acre, of 400 pounds each, which would, at 50c. [illegible] pound, amount to $200 [illegible] bale—75 bales—would be	$15,000
Net proceeds for the year	$9,757

This estimate is low for cotton, it is now selling at from 65@70c. [illegible] pound—a sum quite sufficient to bring the profit up to $15,000.

The question as what amount of cash capital would be required for such an undertaking, to pay hands until crop is raised and sent to market, about half their wages either in cash, clothing, or provisions, would be $100 [illegible] month for 10 months, would be

	$1,000
Feed for 6 mules for 8 months	1,152
Cost of mules, farming implements, &c.	1,150
Total	$3,302

The residue would not be required until the crop was ready to be gathered and sent to market. I believe, my dear Sir, that the above information will cover all the points touched upon in the letters submitted to me.

I hope you will urge upon the Government the adoption of the policy of leasing these lands, which have been abandoned by their owners, in small tracts, to our loyal farmers of the West and North, whose sons, by months of toil and exposure, have reopened them. They are justly entitled to the rewards of their valor, beside it will settle the country with a loyal and humane people, who will afford ample protection to the country and the commerce of the Mississippi.

Very respectfully, and truly yours,

JAMES E. YEATMAN.

The Agricultural Department's Monthly Report.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 7, 1864.

The monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture for November will soon be issued. Hereafter it will appear every two months only, as experience shows that a monthly report does not give time enough to correspondents to properly gather the information asked of them by the monthly circulars, nor does it allow mature consideration of the statistical matter embodied in the returns of these correspondents.

This report contains an article from the Commissioner of Agriculture stating the matters essential to perfecting the plan of these reports. These are, first, procuring a sufficient basis on which estimates of the crops from year to year can be made, and to determine the progress of the other industrial pursuits. This basis must be a well systematized census every fifth year. On such a basis he is satisfied that correct estimates can be made through the information of correspondents in every country.

Secondly: He asks power to extend this correspondence so as to embrace statistics appertaining to manufactures and commerce, as well as to agriculture, on the ground that these industrial pursuits are so intertwined as to be inseparable. The value of agricultural products depends on the home market created by manufactures and commerce, and a knowledge of these is essential to determining the demand for these products at the foreign market; also materially influences this value. A knowledge of the condition of the English crops from time to time, and of those countries which supply the markets of Great Britain with breadstuffs, is necessary; and hence he asks to be placed in communication with our consuls, that through them this information may be obtained.

In connection with these subjects the Commissioner advocates the necessity of hereafter establishing a Bureau of Statistics as a part of the Agricultural Department, for the reason that, having regular monthly correspondence in every county of the Union, it can command the services of persons well trained in collecting statistics and who appreciate their objects; that hence neither the delay, nor errors, nor expense will be attendant on a census taken by the Department, which have characterized the decade census; and that as this Department alone has special cognizance of the industrial pursuits; all matters, such as the census, which almost exclusively belong to these pursuits, should come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

The tables of this report refer more to sustaining the soil by the use of proper measures and deep plowing than to the condition of the crops. But in this connection it is stated that the amount of clover seed crop for 1863, in nine of the principal clover producing States (the [illegible] States raising but little), was 806,448 bushels; in 1862, 1,034,790 bushels, and in 1859, 637,109 bushels; showing a decrease in the last year's crop of 28 per cent. This decrease was caused by drouth, the scarcity of fodder and hay, and the severity of the Fall frosts.

The report shows the great utility of plaster as a manure, sown on clover in June, and the entire growth turned under for wheat in the Fall. The necessity for establishing manufactures of bone charcoal at slaughter houses for refining sorgo molasses, and using it afterward as manure, is shown.

The trustworthiness of the information obtained by the Department through the correspondents is referred to in the present condition of the pork trade, and as predicted by the Department. The exports of breadstuffs and provisions are given, with their prices in New-York on the 1st instant; also, the general imports and exports; the proper mode of stating these by taking from the amount of exports of produce the difference between gold and currency; the perplexity arising from a want of a uniform system of weights and measures in England, and the necessity of Congressional action on the subject in the United States.

Congress prints 120,000 copies of the Annual Agricultural Report, and 15,000 copies of the monthly report, yet these inadequately supply the public wants, and hence the Commissioner advises the trial of the English plan of distributing public documents—to *sell them* at cost. The present cost of the Annual Agricultural Report is sixty cents. Collections and orders could be sent from every county through the regular correspondent of the department.

The meteorological part of the report is more full and interesting than heretofore given. The same severity that has marked the climate of the Mississippi since July still continues, although generally the weather has been favorable on the Fall-sown crops, and for farm stock and labor.

MARRIED.

BURDETT—WATKINS—In Fort Lee, N. J., on Tuesday, Jan. 5, by the Rev. M. Herr, Peter Burdett to Emma Louisa, daughter of C. S. Watkins, esq., of Fort Lee.

BEACH—KEELER—On Wednesday, Jan. 6, by the Rev. D. B. Coe, D. D., Charles D. Beach of Sidney Centre, N. Y., to Hattie, youngest daughter of L. M. Keeler, esq., of this city. No cards.

COBB—HODGEMAN—At the residence of the bride's father, Fort Edward, N. Y., on Tuesday, Jan. 5, by the Rev. S. Coleman, Amos H. Cobb of this city, to Angie M., daughter of F. D. Hodgeman, esq. No cards.

HOLMAN—ROUNDEY—In Boston, on Thursday, Dec. 31, by the Rev. F. D. Huntington, D. D., assisted by the Rev. Edwin B. Chase of Marblehead, Mass., Mr. Samuel K. Holman of this city, to Miss Sarah B. Roundey of Marblehead. No cards.

JULIAN—GIDDINGS—At Jefferson, Ohio, on Thursday, Dec. 31, by the Rev. Mr. Concklin, the Hon. George W. Julian, M. C., of Indiana, to Laura A., youngest daughter of the Hon. Joshua R. Giddings.

LYMAN—DOUGLAS—At Windsor Locks, Conn., on Thursday, Dec. 31, by the Rev. Chas. McIntire, Moses Lyman, jr., and Ellen A., daughter of the late E. A. Douglas, esq., of Mauch Chunk, Pa.

TOTMAN—WHEELER—In Jerman, on Thursday, Dec. 24, 1863, by the Rev. J. W. Barr, Mr. Workman Totman of Pharsalia, to Miss Emille G. Wheeler, formerly of Reading, Schuyler County, N. Y.

DIED.

BLEWETT—At Belleville, N. J., on Sunday, Jan. 3, in the 56th year of his age, Benjamin Blewett.

COTHEAL—At Fishkill Village, on Friday, Jan. 8, Catharine Z., wife of Isaac E. Cotheal, and daughter of the late Richard and Ann Rapelje.

CHASE—At Trenton, N. J., on Wednesday, Jan. 6, George T., only son of James and Almira Chase of Brooklyn, aged 14 years, 9 months and 19 days.

EMBREE—At Birch Hill, Lattingtown, Long Island, near Glen Cove, Seventh day, First month, 9th, in the 65th year of her age, Sarah R., widow of Lawrence E. Embree.

FISK—At New-Brunswick, N. J., on Sunday, Dec. 20, 1863, Judith, wife of Haley Fisk, esq., in the 66th year of her age.

HERVEY—On Sunday, Jan. 3, of congestion of the brain, caused by a fall at the residence of his parents, Union, Bergen County, N. J., James H., son of Capt. James B. and Elizabeth Hervey.

HERRICK—On Saturday, Jan. 2, at his residence, Hunt's Point, Westchester County, after a short illness, in the 64th year of his age, Mr. Jacob B. Herrick, merchant of this city.

JENKINS—Suddenly, at Boonton, N. J., on Thursday, Jan. 7, George Jenkins, in the 58th year of his age.

LITTLE—At Middletown Point, N. J., on Friday, Jan. 8, William Little, aged 84 years.

McBRIDE—In the hospital at Knoxville, Tenn., on Monday, Dec. 14, of chronic diarrhea, Robt. McBride, son of the late Capt. R. McBride of Arran, of company F, 79th Regiment (Highlanders), New-York State Volunteers, aged 24 years and 10 days, a native of Irvine, Ayrshire, Scotland.

PIERCE—At Rye Neck, on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1864, Harriet, wife of Abraham Pierce, aged 68 years, 5 months and 18 days.

RAYMOND—In Peekskill, N. Y., on Friday, Jan. 8, at the residence of his mother, Charles Denton Raymond, aged 41 years, second son of Mrs. H. D. Raymond and the late Philetus Raymond.

RODGERS—At Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1863, Charles Edgar Rodgers, of Battery G, 51st N. J. Artillery, in the 18th year of his age.

SCOTT—At Ridgefield, Conn., on Tuesday, Jan. 5, James Scott, in the 43d year of his age.

STITT—In Bridesburg, Philadelphia, on Thursday, Dec. 17, Miss Emily St. John Stitt, adopted daughter of Mrs. Ann and the late Alexander Stitt.

TOWNSEND—At Birch Hill, Lattingtown, Long Island, on Thursday, Dec. 31, 1863, Rebecca Gracey Townsend, youngest child of Frederick E. and Mary A. Townsend, aged 2 years, 11 months and 29 days.

TOMPKINS—At Newark, on Friday, Jan. 8, George S. Tompkins, in the 20th year of his age, son of the late Purdy and Cornelia Tompkins, and stepson of E. H. Munson.

VAN BRUNT—At Yorkville, on Friday evening, Jan. 8, Maria, wife of Geo. B. Van Brunt, in the 54th year of her age.

The Dry Goods Market.

JAN. 12, p. m.—There is considerable excitement in the market for domestic cotton fabrics. The anticipated raid on the commission houses has actually occurred, and a very large amount of goods has passed into second hands within the last few days. The recent advance in prices has only confirmed the expectations of buyers, who, finding their fears realized, now rush into the market to save themselves against a still further rise. Their eagerness, however, produces the very advance they had hoped to evade, prices being generally higher than a week ago on cotton fabrics. This movement has been almost exclusively confined to the city jobbers. What the state of things will be when buyers arrive from the Western and Middle States may be easily conjectured. It would seem inevitable that a large further advance will then be realized. Indeed, it is not easy to see where they are to find the goods they want. The commission houses are literally bare of goods. Instead of having the accumulation usually held at the opening of the year, for supplying the Spring demand, they are depending almost entirely on the daily supply from the mills; which, of course, must prove utterly inadequate. Last Spring there was remaining on the market a large amount of old accumulations, in the hands of both speculators and commission merchants; that stock is now entirely gone, and the only dependence is on the limited production of the mills, which is at about the same rate as twelve months ago. This exhaustion of old stock reduces the present supply of cotton goods to probably about two-thirds that of twelve months ago.

The larger jobbers hold heavy stocks of prints and plain cotton goods, a good portion of which they have bought below present prices. It appears to be their intention to sell at moderate prices rather than hold for a material advance. This policy will tend to keep down prices among the commission houses, as the jobbers will be enabled to sell to many who would otherwise buy at first hands. There is a general anticipation of a higher range of prices up to March 1; and some shrewd merchants expect in the interim more irregularity in quotations than at any period during the war; but there are few who have any confidence in the continuance of high figures after that date.

There is some feeling of uncertainty among manufacturers about the immediate supply of cotton. Some have advices from New-Orleans to the effect that the supply on the Mississippi and in Texas is almost exhausted, or at least so much so as can be reached in the present position of military affairs, but there seems to be no clear ground for attaching much importance to the rumor. Should it prove true, the advance in cotton must be very great, with a corresponding rise in the value of goods.

There has not been much activity in brown sheetings during the week, for the reason there are almost none on the market. Prices of standard goods tend upward; Amoskeags are quoted 45 cents.

Bleached shirtings have been very active during the last few days, and some of the largest dealers in them have almost cleared out their stock. Prices of these goods creep up almost every day. New-York Mills shirtings sell at 42½c.; White Rock have advanced to 40c.

Brown drills are scarce and not much wanted. Standard makes sell at 45c.

Corset Jeans have advanced 1c. more within the last few days. The supply in first hands is almost exhausted.

Ginghams are moving freely. Glasgows are worth 26c.

The print market is very much excited. The commission houses are making large sales, and have again advanced their prices 1c. on the better class of goods. Spragues have sold their entire stock, and now ask 24c. for their goods. Richmond's fancies are quoted at 22c., and his pinks and purples at 23c.; Amoskeags sell at 22c.; Americans dark, worth 22c.; Allen's, 20c.

Printing cloths are higher and unsettled. Sales in this market are nominal, but last week were very large at Providence. The current figure here for 64x64 7-yards goods is 17½c.

Woolen goods are, for the most part, selling steadily at good prices. The commencing figures on fancy cassimeres are well sustained, and buyers do not anticipate any downward movement in prices. There is a great scarcity of the lower grades of cassimeres.

The manufacturers of woolen shawls are forwarding a good assortment of Spring styles. The production is likely to run on light fancy plaids, both of high and grave colors. The Waterloo Company is producing a very large line of handsome patterns.

Delaines continue in steady demand at 30c.

The trade in foreign goods has not yet generally opened. Buyers hold back, the largeness of the importation having produced a general mistrust in the future of values, especially on Dress Goods. In Staple Fabrics there is less hesitation. Reliable advices from Manchester report that all the orders for Bradford Dress Goods will be executed by the 15th of January, a very much earlier date than usual. The general tenor of foreign advices is to the effect that the exports of fabrics to the United States have been sent much earlier than formerly, which affords reason to hope that the Spring importation will not prove so excessive as is feared.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

RECEIPTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING TUESDAY, JAN. 12, 1864.

Beeves.	Cows.	Veals.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.	Total.
4,149	103	465	10,475	6,829	22,021

There were sold at the following Market-Places:

	Beeves.	Cows.	Veals.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.	Total.
At Allerton's, 44th-st.	3,252	40	189	1,600	....	6,863
At Browning's, 6th-st.	203	39	52	2,741	....	....
At O'Brien's, 6th-st.	63	23	34	204	....	....
At Chamberlin's, Robinson-st.	42	31	177	4,138	....	....
At Bergen	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sent from the cars direct to butchers	159	....	....	1,700	....	....
Av. wk'y rec'ts last yr.	5,009	125	607	9,927	21,193	37,052
Receipts last week	4,023	115	672	9,361	9,953	23,653

PRICES OF BEEF AT THE PRINCIPAL MARKET THIS WEEK.

The following are the quotations per pound upon the estimated net weight of meat—offal sinking offal. That is, a bullock whose quarters will weigh 8 cwt., at 10c. a pound, amounts to $80:

	Cents per pound.
Prize, or extra Holiday Beef	[illegible]
The very best on sale to-day	13 @14
That generally rated first quality	12 @13
Medium or good, fair quality	11 @12
That of ordinary, thin Steers, Oxen and Cows	9 @10
Inferior or lowest grade of Cattle	7 @ 8
The general average of the market to-day, estimated at	11
Extreme range of prices from	7 @ 15
The most of the sales are from	10 @13

WHERE THE CATTLE ARE FROM.

The Bullocks sold at Allerton's are reported from the following States:

New-York	1,422	Indiana	129
Pennsylvania	46	Illinois	957
Ohio	281	Connecticut	103
Michigan	220	Canada	43

They came by the following routes: Erie Railroad, 350; Hudson River Railroad, 1,447; Harlem Railroad, 1,011; New-Haven Railroad, 10.

About 2,000 were in the Yards on Monday.

REMARKS ABOUT BEEF CATTLE.

The total number this week, 4,149 head, compares with 4,023 head last week, and with 5,009 head, average per week last year, and with 4,633 for the corresponding week one year ago. The number sold yesterday and to-day at the principal market, 3,252 head, compared with 3,519 head last week, and 4,045 head, the average per week last year, and with 4,005 head at market one year ago.

THE OPENING OR PRINCIPAL DAY OF THE MARKET.

Monday, Jan. 11.—The market opened this morning with not over 1,500 head of Bullocks in the sale pens, which gave the market [illegible] a more hopeful appearance than the salesmen had no trouble to induce butchers to give them a cent a pound net more than last week, and nearly all the sales were 10@13c. a pound for the estimated net weight of the beef, [illegible] sinking offal—that is, hide, fat, &c. A very few very choice Bullocks were sold to-day at 14c., and the Drovers and salesmen reported sales of very thin, rough Steers at 8c. [illegible] but we very much doubt whether a dozen Bullocks sold to-day that will make the meat 12c. [illegible] lb. net, upon the [illegible] decent butcher would be willing to [illegible] actual weight of meat. We know that some bulls and stags and oxen only sold [illegible] that will make the [illegible]

During the forenoon, between four and five hundred more cattle arrived, but this did not materially affect the selling rates, until it was ascertained that some 800 or 1,000 would undoubtedly arrive to-night or in the morning, making a liberal supply for the closing day of the market. This, probably, somewhat affected the price of the low grade of stock, but the supply of real good bullocks was so much below the demand, that prices continue firm at 12@13c. [illegible] lb. net. Indeed, as a whole, this is the best market for drovers that we have reported for years, as the prices are not only high, but the sales lively and, as it is always the case at such times, the estimates of weights are liberal. The weather to-day is very fine, being clear and cool, but not so severe as to hinder out-door business. It is a matter worthy of notice, that this advance to-day is much more upon ordinary and medium stock than upon real first-class. Probably this is owing to the fact that first-class butchers thought they had already reached the utmost limit that they could afford. During the afternoon, the arrivals were by the Erie road, and New-Jersey Central, enough to make up the number to 2,000, and it was known that twenty-two car loads on the Harlem, had been detained by an accident to the down passenger train, occasioned by a broken rail, which broke up three cars and injured some thirty passengers, though none fatally. [illegible] the assurance of more to come Tuesday morning, [illegible] buyers were not sharp after bargains this Monday night, though with few exceptions, we find drovers and brokers confident of a good closing day of the market, and so ends the first day—a day of high prices.

CLOSE OF THE MARKET.

Tuesday, Jan. 12.—The quotations in our table of prices are based mainly upon the sales of Monday. And even the last of that day's sales were not as brisk as the first. Some of the drovers too were in such a hurry to close up and go back to the country to buy more stock "before the farmers get THE TRIBUNE," that they accepted lower rates than they were asking in the morning; with that exception we did not see much difference. [illegible]

[illegible]

BROKERS' SALES OF BULLOCKS.

[illegible]

THE SHEEP MARKET.

[illegible]

THE SWINE MARKET.

[illegible]

The statement that S. M. Clark, the Chief of the Note Bureau in the Treasury Department has been suspended from duty is without foundation.

FROM EUROPE.

The steamship Africa, from Liverpool on December 26, via Queenstown December 27, arrived at Halifax on Thursday, bringing three days later news.

The Messrs. Laird refuse to sell the Mersey rams. Mr. Adams and Mr. Dayton are making combined efforts to prevent the sailing of the Rebel privateer Rappahannock from Calais. Six of the men enlisted to serve on board the Federal steamer Kearsarge, have been committed to trial at Queenstown.

The Opposition in the French Legislative Body declare in favor of a pacific policy. One of their members denounced the Mexican war. The Loan bill was passed by a vote of 242 to 14.

The Federal troops have entered Holstein and a mass meeting at Altona, Holstein, has formally proclaimed the Prince of Augustenburg Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. The Danish Ministry have resigned.

Thackeray, the celebrated author, was found dead in his bed on the morning of the 24th ult. He was taken ill only the day previous. Effusion on the brain is the alleged cause of his death.

Commercial Intelligence.

The Commercial news by the Africa was almost entirely anticipated by the advices by the City of Baltimore. The markets were closed from the 24th to the 28th of December.

LONDON MARKETS.—Messrs. Barings' circular reports BREADSTUFFS still declining. SUGAR quiet but firm. COFFEE firmer. RICE inactive. TEA quiet and unchanged. IRON active and firm. TALLOW firmer.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.—There had been no sales of American securities.

HAVRE MARKETS—HAVRE, Dec. 24—COTTON.—Sales of the week, 6,500 bales. Market quiet and steady, closing nominal. New-Orleans *tres ordinaire* 257 fr.; ditto, *bas* 253 fr. Stock, 25,000 bales.

A Cairo dispatch of the 8th says that boats continue to arrive from the Cumberland now, but none from the Ohio above Smithland. Ice continues to run heavily out of the Ohio. There are six or eight inches of snow on the ground. Of three hundred recruits from Springfield, on their way here, on the night of the 6th, a large number were rendered insensible by drugged liquor, prepared by three men, who enlisted for the purpose of robbing them. They succeeded in taking away nearly $1,000 in money, beside watches and other valuables. One recruit died from the effects of the poison. The Rebel Col. Truston Polk is here in charge of an officer, who will conduct him outside of our lines.

Boston Cattle Market,

AT CAMBRIDGE AND BRIGHTON.

Reported for THE TRIBUNE, *for the week ending, Jan.* 13, 1864.

PRICES.

Beeves—First quality..$8 50@$9 50 } Per 100 lb on the total
Second do.... 7 25@ 8 25 } weight of hide, tallow,
Third do...... 6 00@ 7 00 } and dressed beef.
Extra, $9 75@$10.

Working Oxen—$70@$150, or according to their value as beef.

Sheep and Lambs—5@9½c. ℔ lb on live weight; in lots $6 @$9.

Milch Cows—$35@$50; Extra, $60@$75; Ordinary, $20 @$23.

Swine—Stores, none. Live fat Hogs, corn-fed, —@7c. ℔ lb. *Hides*, 9@9½c. *Calf Skins*, 14c. *Tallow*, 8½@9c. *Pelts*, $3.

We have again to report a quick market and on medium qualities an advance of probably ½c. ℔ lb. There is little change in the range of prices, however, as some of the lightest stock sold at 6c., and 10c. is still the limit of the very best oxen. At Cambridge, with the exception of a few cars of the Vermont Central, the stock arrived in good season, and butchers were "looking" at the cattle with their fingers before daylight. At this market there were about 700 cattle, a large advance in both numbers and quality from last week. Last week's prices have brought out a goodly number of choice stall-fed bullocks. The stock at Cambridge was nearly all sold there yesterday forenoon.

At Brighton there were yesterday 488 from Albany, 140 Massachusetts Cattle, 85 from Maine, and by way of novelty, one small drove from Rhode Island—in all here about 800 head, which, with the Cambridge stock, give some 1,500 as the amount for the week. This is a considerably larger number than the highest estimate we heard mentioned by any butcher. At present prices, we think this will prove to be a large supply, and venture the opinion that the city beef market will not prove as good for the butchers as last has been.

At market 3,400 sheep—300 more than last week—of which some 700 are from Albany, and these are mostly heavy, high-priced goods. We again advance our quotations for the better qualities. But it should be remembered that there are some well fed flocks at market. The poorest grades sell hard—the owner of one 6c. lot bantered most all day without raising that bid. The butchers say that more than 1,200 dressed sheep are weekly sent to this market in addition to the live stock.

Philadelphia Cattle Market—JAN. 13.

There was but a small supply of Beef Cattle this week, the offerings reaching to only 1,225 head. The market was consequently very brisk, and all were sold at from $10 50@$12 50 ℔ 100 lb for good Prime and Extra Cattle. Ordinary Cattle sold at from $8@$9.

SHEEP.—The supply of Sheep was fair, amounting to 4,500 head. Sales were made at from 5@6½c. ℔ lb, according to quality.

HOGS.—This market was also active, and sales amounted to nearly 3,000 head at from $10@$12 50 ℔ 100 lb net.

COWS.—The sale of Cows amounted to 125 head at from $19 @$30 for Springers, and from $25@$50 for Cows and Calves.

N. Y. Wholesale Prices of Country Produce

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13, 1864.

[Reported expressly for THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.]

Shippers of produce, in order to realize the highest market prices for their consignments, should heed the following instructions:

Mark the consignee's name plainly and neatly upon each package to be shipped, together with your own name or private mark, and also the contents of the package.

Be sure that the articles are in good order when put into the package, and that they are so put up that they cannot break or spoil on the way.

Send an invoice to the consignee by mail, immediately on shipment of goods.

A reputation for accuracy of count, weight, tare, &c., is very valuable. False marks only discredit a brand and make purchasers cautious in future to the disadvantage of the shipper.

It is well for a shipper to have a uniform mark for his packages, in order, that, if a buyer should be pleased with one purchase he would know how to find another.

Neatness and cleanliness are indispensable.

The following are the wholesale commission prices for the sales of good articles, in good order:

BEANS AND PEAS.

Beans have been very dull; we quote prices lower, and few sales at outside rates. A large stock is reported in the country, and holders there asking above our market rates. Canada Peas have been firm, with sales at outside rate from store. We quote:

Beans, pea, good to prime ℔ bush	$2 65@$2 70
Beans, medium, good to prime, ℔ bush	2 65@ 2 70
Beans, marrow, good to prime, ℔ bush	2 80@ 2 90
Beans, kidney, good to prime, ℔ bush	2 80@ 2 90
Beans, mixed, good to prime, ℔ bush	2 35@ 2 70
Beans, inferior	1 50@ 2 25
Peas, Canada, ℔ bush	1 15@ 1 18

BUTTER.

We notice no change in the market for State Butter. The choice and low grades are in best demand, the medium qualities being least called for. The quality of the recent-made pail butter now arriving is poor, and preference is given to Fall tubs. Western is not as active as last week. Holders remain firm for all kinds. We quote:

State, dairies, choice	31 @33
State, firkins, good to choice	28 @31
State, firkins, fair to good	24 @28
State, half-firkin tubs, good to choice	30 @33
State, half-firkin tubs, fair to good	25 @30
State, Welsh tubs, good to choice	27 @30
State, Welsh tubs, fair to good	23 @27
State, store-packed, common to choice	22 @28
Orange and Sussex County, pails	34 @38
River County, pails, choice	33 @34
River County pails, fair to good	26 @30
Northern Pennsylvania, half-firkin tubs, good to choice	28 @32
Western Pennsylvania, good to choice	23 @28
Western Reserve, good to choice	24 @27
Ohio, and other Western, good to choice	22 @24
Michigan, good to prime	25 @27
Western, common to good	19 @23
Roll Butter, in cloths, choice	26 @27
Roll Butter, in cloths, common to good	22 @24

CHEESE.

There has been an improved inquiry for Cheese, and prices have been very firm and in favor of the seller. English Dairy quiet, but with rather more sales than last week. Prices unchanged. We quote:

State, factory-made, prime to fancy	15 @16
State, good to choice	14 @15
State, fair to good	11½@14
State, common skimmed	— @—
Vermont, good to choice	13½@14½
Ohio, good to prime	12½@14
Ohio, fair to good	11 @12½
English Dairy, Connecticut, choice	13 @14½
English Dairy, Connecticut, common to good	11 @12½
English Dairy, Ohio, choice	13 @14
Pineapple, good to choice	17 @19

EGGS.

Eggs have continued very scarce, and prices have advanced. There are not enough here to supply the demand, and 34c. might possibly be obtained for choice fresh. Limed are nearly out of market. We quote:

State and Jersey, choice, ℔ doz	32 @33
Western, by Express, ℔ doz	31 @33
Western, Ordinary freight, ℔ doz	27 @30
Canada, ℔ doz	30 @31
Limed, loss off, ℔ doz	23 @30
Egg Oats, ℔ bush., good	75 @80

FRUITS.

APPLES—The market is dull, both for large and small lots, and the stock is deteriorating in quality. We quote:

Mixed Western, ℔ bbl	$2 62½@$2 87½
Common, ℔ bbl	1 50 @ 2 00
Selected Fruit	3 00 @ 3 25
Lady Apples, ℔ bbl	— — @ — —

CRANBERRIES—The market continues dull, and the stock is mostly of poor quality. We quote:

Eastern, ℔ bbl	$8 00@ $9 00
Western, ℔ bbl	5 00@ 7 50

DRIED FRUITS—Apples have continued dull, and sales have been made at lower rates than last reported. Peaches are firm at our quotations, and some parties report higher figures. Cherries and Raspberries are steady. Blackberries and Plums are easier. We quote:

Dried Apples, sliced, ℔ lb	— @ —c.
Dried Apples, choice, new, ℔ lb	9 @ 9½c.
Dried Apples, good to choice, old, ℔ lb	8½@ 9 c.
Peaches, peeled, new, ℔ lb	24 @26 c.
Peaches, unpeeled, ℔ lb	12 @14 c.
Plums, new, ℔ lb	19 @20 c.
Pitted Cherries, new, ℔ lb	23 @25 c.
Raspberries, wild, ℔ lb	— @— c.
Raspberries, black, new, ℔ lb	$3 @35 c.
Blackberries, new, ℔ lb	16 @17 c.
Currants, domestic, ℔ lb	3 @ 4 c.

FRESH MEATS.

Dressed Hogs have continued in good request and scarce at advancing prices. Preference is given by the packers to city killed over Western or State, because of their freshness and cleanness. Sheep and Lambs have been in good request and very scarce, and prices of live have advanced. The high price current for fresh pelts—in the neighborhood of $3—causes the price of live to rule nearly as high as dressed. We quote:

Dressed Hogs, Jersey, light	10½@11
Dressed Hogs, Jersey, heavy	10 @10½
Dressed Hogs, Northern and Western State	9 @ 9½
Dressed Hogs, near-by State	10 @10½
Dressed Hogs, city killed	10 @10½
Dressed Hogs, Western	9 @ 9½
Beef, sides, country, ℔ lb	5 @ 8
Mutton, carcasses, ℔ lb	8 @10
Lamb, carcasses, ℔ lb	9 @10
Veal, carcasses, ℔ lb	8 @11
Live Calves, first quality, ℔ lb	5½@ 6
Live Sheep, sheared, first quality, ℔ lb	6 @ 9
Live Sheep, unsheared	— @—
Live Lambs	10 @11

FURS AND SKINS.

No change. We quote:

No. 1 QUALITY.	North'n&East'n.	Western.	Southern.
Otter, ℔ piece	$6 00 @$6 50	$5 00@$6 00	$4 00@$5 00
Fisher	5 50 @ 9 50	5 00@ 6 00	— —@ — —
Cross Fox	2 25 @ 2 50	2 00@ 2 25	1 25@ 1 75
Red Fox	— 60 @ — 75	— 50@ — 75	— 40@ — 60
Gray Fox	10 00 @ 18 00	8 00@ 12 00	7 00@ 10 00
Black Bear	8 00 @ 10 00	5 00@ 7 00	4 00@ 5 00
Do., cubs & yrl'gs	6 00 @ 7 00	6 00@ 7 50	4 00@ 5 00
Lynx	2 25 @ 2 75	— —@ — —	— —@ — —
Marten, common	2 25 @ 2 50	2 00@ 3 00	— —@ — —
Marten, dark	8 00 @ 20 00	— —@ — —	— —@ — —
Mink, dark	4 00 @ 5 00	3 25@ 4 00	3 00@ 4 00
Muskrat	— 12 @ — 20	— 10@ — 18	— —@ — —
Beaver, ℔ lb	2 00 @ 2 50	2 00@ 2 50	— —@ — —
Raccoon	— 37½@ — 75	— 20@ — 65	— 20@ — —
Opossum	— 15 @ — —	— 15@ — —	— 15@ — —
Wild Cat	— 25 @ — 35	— 30@ — 50	— —@ — —
Wolf, prairie	— 60 @ 1 00	— 50@ — 80	— —@ — —
Wolf, large	1 50 @ 1 75	1 50@ 1 75	— —@ — —
Skunk, black			— 60@ — —
Skunk, half white			— 10@ — 20
Skunk, white			— 5@ — 10

GAME.

Receipts of Grouse have been large, and prices have been irregular. One large lot was sold at 38c. ℔ pair, while most dealers have been jobbing them off at 50c. The large lot at 38c. was bought on speculation to hold, and consequently does not go out of market. Quail have been plenty, and continued low. Partridges have been less plenty, and sold better. Venison is in better demand and higher. We quote:

Quail, ℔ doz	$1 00 @$1 25
Quail, soft and shot birds, ℔ doz	— 75 @ — 87
Woodcock, ℔ pair	— — @ — —
Partridges, ℔ pair	— 62 @ — 75
Prairie Chickens, ℔ pair	— 30 @ — 50
Rabbits, each	— 18 @ — 20
Hares, each	— 20 @ — 25
Wild Turkeys, ℔ lb	— 13 @ — 15
Wild Geese, ℔ pair	— — @ — —
Venison, saddles, ℔ lb	— 13 @ — 14
Venison, carcasses, ℔ lb	— 9½@ — 11½

HIDES AND SKINS.

The Hide market has continued quiet, and prices firm. Veal Skins are quite active. We quote:

Veal skins, green salted, country trimmed, ℔ lb	17@18c.
Western Slaughter Hides, trimmed and cured, ℔ lb	11½@12c.

POTATOES.

The market continues steady at firm prices.

Potatoes packed in shipping order bring 25@50c. above our quotations. We quote:

Buckeyes, ℔ bbl	$1 75 @$2 00
Prince Albert, ℔ bbl	1 87 @ 2 00
Jackson Whites, ℔ bbl	1 87 @ 2 12½
Rough and Ready, ℔ bbl	1 87 @ 2 00
Mercers, ℔ bbl	2 00 @ 2 50
Peachblows, ℔ bbl	2 00 @ 2 25
Sweet Potatoes, ℔ bbl	7 00 @ 7 50
Sweet Potatoes, in bulk, ℔ bbl	— — @ — —

POULTRY.

Dressed Poultry has been only in moderate receipt, and prices have improved, with a good demand. Most of the stock is badly frozen, and will not command our higher rates. Live Poultry has been scarce. Turkeys and Geese are higher; Fowls lower.

Shippers of Dressed Poultry will consult their own interest, as well as the convenience of receivers here, by marking their packages plainly with their own name or private mark, the address of the firm to whom sent, the kind of poultry in each package, and the house weight, on the cover; also, by sending an invoice by mail. We quote:

Turkeys, live, ℔ lb	$— 12 @— 14
Fowls, live, ℔ lb	— 9 @— 10
Ducks, live, good to choice, ℔ pair	— 75 @ 1 00
Geese, live, ℔ pair	2 00 @ 2 25

DRESSED POULTRY.

Chickens, choice	11½@12½
Chickens, common to good	8 @10
Turkeys, choice	14 @15
Turkeys, common to good	10 @13
Ducks, choice	15 @16
Ducks, common to good	12 @14
Geese, choice	10 @11
Geese, common to good	6 @ 8

SUNDRIES.

FEATHERS are quiet and lower. We quote:

Western, live Geese, white, ℔ lb	63@—c.
Western, live Geese, mixed, ℔ lb	60@63c.

BEESWAX—The market is dull, and outside rates are hard to obtain. We quote:

Southern ℔ lb	—@—c.
Western ℔ lb	49 @50c.

BROOM CORN—We quote:

In bale, ℔ lb	9@12c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We quote:

Fair to good, ℔ 100 lb	$3 25 @$3 50
Extra choice, ℔ 100 lb	3 50 @ 3 75

SQUASHES—No change. We quote:

Boston Marrow, ℔ bbl	$4 00@$4 20

TURNIPS—We quote:

Ruta Bagas, ℔ bbl	$1 25 @ 1 50

ONIONS—Market very firm. We quote:

Red and Yellow, ℔ 100 strings	$5 00@$5 50
Yellow, ℔ bbl	4 75@ 5 25
Red, ℔ bbl	4 75@ 5 25

HONEY—We quote:

White Clover, in small glass caps	20 @23c.
Buckwheat, in small glass caps	23 @25c.
Common, in wooden boxes	16 @20c.

HICKORY NUTS—New, ℔ bush., $1@$1 50.

[Advertisement.]

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And hardly knowing which most to fear.

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Fleeing from chains, from black despair,
Which hangs o'er his soul like a hideous pall;
He turns, at last, as a wolf at his lair.

"One blow for freedom! 'Down, hell-hound! Ho!
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If I fall, it shall be with my face to the foe—
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THE TRIBUNE FOR 1864.

PROSPECTUS.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, first issued April 10, 1841, has to-day a larger aggregate circulation than any other newspaper published in America, or (we believe) in the world. Compelled a year since to increase the price of its several issues, or submit to the pecuniary ruin of its proprietors from the very magnitude of its circulation, it has probably since parted with some patrons to whom its remarkable cheapness was a controlling recommendation; but others have taken their places, and it has now more than Two Hundred Thousand subscribers and regular purchasers—an excess of at least Fifty Thousand over those of any rival. And this unprecedented currency it has achieved by very liberal expenditures in procuring early and authentic intelligence, by the fearless expression of convictions, by the free employment of ability and industry wherever it might contribute to excellence in any department of our enterprise, and by unshrinking fidelity to the dictates of Justice, Humanity, and Freedom.

By very large outlays for early and authentic advices by telegraph and otherwise from its own correspondents with the various armies of the Union, and by special efforts to furnish such information respecting Markets, Crops, new discoveries or improvements in Agriculture, &c., as must specially interest farmers, we have assiduously labored to make a journal calculated to meet the wants and subserve the interests of the Producing Classes. That end we have at least measurably attained; for no other newspaper exists in America or Europe which is habitually read by nearly so many farmers and their families as is THE TRIBUNE to-day. We shall labor to increase both the number and the satisfaction of this by far the most numerous class of its patrons.

During the existence of the Whig party, this paper supported that party, though always sympathizing with the more liberal, progressive, Anti-Slavery "wing" thereof. When new issues dissolved or transformed old organizations through the spontaneous uprising of the people of the Free States against the repudiation of the Missouri Restriction, THE TRIBUNE heartily participated in that movement, and was known as Republican. When the long smoldering conspiracy to divide and destroy our country or reduce it entire to complete abasement to the Slave Power culminated in overt treason and rebellion, it naturally, necessarily regarded resistance to this conspiracy as paramount to all other considerations, and devoted all its energies and efforts to the maintenance of our Union. In every great controversy which has divided our country, it has been found on that side which naturally commands the sympathy and support of the large majority of school-houses and the decided minority of grog-shops, and so doubtless will be to the last.

Ardently desiring and striving for the early and enduring adjustment of our National distractions, THE TRIBUNE leaves the time, the nature and the conditions of that adjustment implicitly to those lawfully in authority, confiding in their wisdom and patriotism, anxious to aid them to the utmost in their arduous responsibilities and not to embarrass them even by possibility. Firmly believing in the Apostolic rule—"First pure, *then* peaceable"—holding that the total and final extirpation of Slavery is the true and only absolute cure for our National ills—that any expedient that stops short of this can have but a transient and illusory success—we yet propound no theory of "reconstruction" and indorse none that has been propounded by another—neither Sumner's, nor Whiting's, nor any of the various Copperhead devices for achieving "Peace" by surrendering the Republic into the power of its traitorous foes—but, exhorting the American People to have faith in their Government, to reënforce their armies and replenish their treasury, we believe that, if they but do their duty, a benign Providence will in due time bring this fearful struggle to such a close as will best subserve the true greatness of our country and the permanent well-being of mankind.

The present session of Congress will be an exceedingly important one, and we have made ample arrangements to lay before our readers what is going on in Washington, both in Congress and in the Departments.

We respectfully solicit the subscriptions and active exertions of our friends, and of all whose views and convictions accord substantially with ours.

New-York, Sept. 10, 1863.

TERMS.

DAILY TRIBUNE.

Single Copy	3 cents.
Mail Subscribers, one year (311 issues)	$8.

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One Copy, one year (104 issues)	$3.
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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE is sent to Clergymen for $2 25.

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To any person who sends us a club of fifty or over THE DAILY TRIBUNE will be sent without charge.

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The Post-Offices where full Clubs cannot be formed either for THE SEMI-WEEKLY or WEEKLY TRIBUNE, subscribers to the two editions can unite at Club prices, should the total number of subscribers come within our rule.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1864 will be ready about Christmas. Price 15 cents; 10 copies post-paid, $1; 100 copies, sent by express, $8. Cash orders solicited.

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On receipt of any of the following sums in Cash, the Subscriber will send by return mail, or otherwise, as directed, a Gold Pen or Pens—*selecting the same according to description*, viz:

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For $2 50 a No. 4 Pen, 1st quality; or a No. 5 Pen, 2d quality; or a No. 6 Pen, 3d quality.
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The "1st Quality" are pointed with the very best Iridosmin Points, carefully selected, and none of this quality are sold with the slightest imperfection which skill and the closest scrutiny can detect.

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All remittances sent by mail in registered letters are at my risk; and to all who send twenty cents (charge for registering), in addition to the price of goods ordered, I will guaranty their safe delivery.

Parties sending Gold or Silver will be allowed the full premium on the day received.

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Our department for GOVERNMENT SECURITIES will continue, as heretofore, to be the main branch of our business.

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LIVERMORE, CLEWS & Co.

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CAPITAL STOCK, $500,000. SHARES FIVE DOLLS. each.

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MESSRS. R. J. RANDELL & BRO.; Your Hay Fork is all you recommended it to be. I would not do without it if it costs fifty dollars. It is the greatest invention of the age, and yet one of the most simple. It is a great saving of time and labor. N. N. JONES, Hudson, Ill.

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A NEW INVENTION, to save HORSES, extensively in use. It is cheap and durable. County Rights only $10. Send for Circular with engraving and testimonials. An unusual chance. Address P. O., Box No. 169 Easton, Pa.

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WHITE or HEDGE WILLOW CUTTINGS for SALE. Circulars sent free. It makes the best of live fence. Also CANVASSERS wanted in every county to introduce our Clothes Wringer, *which is warranted to suit*. COLBY, BROTHERS & Co., Waterbury, Vt.

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Medical.

A CARD.

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The Rev. CHARLES E. KING, formerly Secretary to the London Evangelical Alliance, and recently connected, as resident Minister and Physician, with the Venezuelan Mission, will send ☞ FREE OF COST ☜ the PRESCRIPTION with which he successfully treated, while in charge of the large Mission Hospital, *upward of one hundred cases of* CONSUMPTION *in the first, second and third stages.*

The remedy is equally adapted to the treatment of ASTHMA, CATARRH, BRONCHITIS, and all affections of the LUNGS, THROAT, and AIR-PASSAGES; while it speedily invigorates the enfeebled NERVOUS SYSTEM, and energizes the deranged functions of the STOMACH, LIVER, and BOWELS.

Address, with stamp,

The Rev. CHARLES E. KING, Station D, Bible House, New-York.

P. S.—I wish publicly to acknowledge the generosity of those publishers who have given this advertisement *gratuitous insertion*. Religious papers are earnestly requested to copy.

IMPORTANT TO CONSUMPTIVES.—Dr. BARRONE'S OZONIZED CHLORODINE, an unfailing remedy for Bronchitis, Asthma, and Consumption. It never fails to relieve, and in most cases performs a perfect cure. (Circulars sent free.) Address BARRONE, BLOOD & Co., No. 179 Broadway, New-York.

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The Advertiser, having been restored to health in a few weeks by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease, Consumption—actuated by a desire to benefit the afflicted, is anxious to make known to his fellow-sufferers the means of cure.

To all who desire it, he will cheerfully send a copy of the prescription used (free of charge), free with full and explicit directions for preparing and successfully using the same, which they will find a *sure Cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis*, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the Prescription is to benefit the afflicted, and spread information which he conceives to be invaluable, and he hopes every sufferer will try his remedy, as it will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing.

Parties wishing the prescription will please address

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USE NO OTHER!—BUCHAN'S SPECIFIC PILLS are the only *Reliable Remedy* for all Diseases of the Seminal, Urinary and Nervous Systems. Try one box, and be cured. ONE DOLLAR A BOX. *One box will perfect a cure, or money refunded.* Sent by mail on receipt of price. JAMES S. BUTLER, Station D, Bible House, New-York, General Agent.

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DR. BUCHAN'S ENGLISH SPECIFIC PILLS.

These Pills are the only genuine Specific to be relied on for the permanent and positive cure of all diseases of the *Nervous, Seminal*, and *Urinary Organs*. One box will cure you, and in less than 30 days. Only $1 a box. JAMES S. BUTLER, Sta. D., Bible-House, N. Y., General Agent.

HOYT'S HIAWATHA HAIR RESTORATIVE—Warranted to restore faded and gray Hair and Whiskers to their original color. Superior to dyes and every other preparation for the hair in the natural and life appearance it gives, instead of the dull, dead black of dyes, so that the most critical observer cannot detect its use; in the simplicity of its application, it being used as easily as any article of the toilet, and in its beneficial effects on the head and the hair. It makes the hair soft and silky, prevents from falling out, removes all its impurities, and entirely overcomes the bad effects of the previous use of preparations containing sulphur, sugar of lead, &c.

HOYT'S MINNEHAHA HAIR GLOSS, unexcelled in keeping the hair in curl.

HOYT'S IMPERIAL COLORING CREAM, changes light and red hair to a beautiful brown or black.

HOYT'S EXCELSIOR TOILET POWDER imparts beauty to the complexion, smoothness to the skin, and preserves youthfulness of appearance. Sold everywhere. JOSEPH HOYT & Co., No. 10 University-place, N. Y.

SWALLOW two or three hogsheads of "Bucho," "Tonic Bitters," "Sarsaparilla," "Nervous Antidotes," &c., &c., &c., and after you are satisfied with the result, then try one box of OLD DOCTOR BUCHAN'S ENGLISH SPECIFIC PILLS—and be restored to health and vigor in less than thirty days. They are purely vegetable, pleasant to take, prompt and salutary in their effects on the broken-down and shattered constitution. Old and Young can take them with advantage.

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STAMMERING Cured by BATES'S PATENT SCIENTIFIC APPLIANCES, the only known means for the rapid and permanent cure of Stammering, Stuttering, &c. They received a Gold Medal at the last London Exhibition.

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Cancers, Tumors, Wens, Old Ulcers, Scrofula, etc., speedily cured without the knife and with little pain, by a new and sure process. Pamphlet describing treatment sent free. Address DRS. BLAKE & HADLEY, No. 649 Broadway, New-York.

TO NERVOUS SUFFERERS OF BOTH SEXES!—One box of OLD DOCTOR BUCHAN'S SPECIFIC PILLS will cure you in less than 30 days. Purely vegetable. Price $1 per box. Sent by mail, postpaid, by JAMES S. BUTLER, Station D, Bible House, New-York, Agent for United States.

DISEASES of the NERVOUS, SEMINAL, URINARY and SEXUAL SYSTEMS.—New and reliable treatment in reports of the Howard Association. Sent in sealed letter envelopes, free of charge. Address, Dr. J. SKILLIN HOUGHTON, Howard Ass'n., Philadelphia, Pa.

THE Confessions and Experience of an Invalid—Published for the benefit, and as a Caution to Young Men who suffer from Nervous Debility, Premature Decay of Manhood, &c., supplying the means of Self Cure. By one who has cured himself after being put to great expense and injury through medical humbug and quackery. Single copies may be had (free) of the author. NATHANIEL MAYFAIR, esq., Bedford, Brooklyn, Kings County, New-York.

Miscellaneous.

$200, $150, $100, $50 PREMIUMS.—To Editors, Ladies, and others. I will pay the above-named amounts for the best four articles on either my Soap, Saleratus, or Concentrated Potash. The article must state the writer's experience in using the goods, and must not be less than ten lines, and be published in the editorial columns of any good family newspaper. Any party wishing to compete for the above, and desiring further information may address the undersigned. Each person writing and publishing a notice, as above, will mail a marked copy of the paper containing the notice to me, and also write me by mail giving full address. The Premiums will be awarded on the fourth day of July, 1864. B. T. BABBITT, Nos. 64 to 74 Washington-st., New-York.

By the description of Babbitt's soap kettle in
The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN one would suppose that whe

Babbitt put one foot on the North Pole,
And the other on the South, so bold,
By the continental he could soap the journals of the univers
Each after batch, in this mammoth kettle is immersed;
It stands four stories high, and is a tremendous saponifier.
The tallow per batch costs $30,000, purchased by different buyers.
The large quantity it holds is 300,000 pounds—largest in the world.

Satisfied are all the customers that 'tis truth, and bold
Old-fashioned folks buy it because 'tis splendid,
All good families buy it because it's recommended.
Positively is the quality unsurpassed.

Saleratus is always ranked first-class;
All the bread made from it is composed of flour, salt, and water
Large quantities of this article are manufactured by workm
Each day produces fifteen tons of saleratus.
Rarely do we see such quantities displayed among us;
And all in one pound papers is weighed.
The beautiful girls, with tiny fingers, are displayed;
Upon saleratus is nicely put up by the maids,
Saleratus is packed in red and looks very neat;

Potash in tin cans by all is said to be complete,
Over all the territory Babbitt cares not who competes,
Tell people what beautiful soft soap it makes,
And certainly you will not hesitate a quantity to take,
Satisfied are all who buy this potash for soap to make,
Have come to the conclusion that they can make no mistake.

Yeast powder is put up in one-pound tin, chequered cans,
Every housekeeper knows it is good, so does every man,
All those who use it do declare;
Such biscuit and bread they never see anywhere,
The best of families call for this kind of goods.

Personally know they are very good.
On hand Babbitt always keeps a good stock.
When merchants call they are supplied by the box;
Doctors surely say they make the best of bread;
Every family with the biscuit have their table spread.
Rarely do the people know of what Babbitt's yeast is composed
Salt is truly the base, so out the secret goes. T. B.

THE STAMP TAX.

IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE. [Official.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE, WASHINGTON, January 7, 1864.

SIR: Your letter of the 4th inst. has been received, inclosing the labels of the following-named articles: SALERATUS, BAKING SODA, CREAM TARTAR, O. K. SOAP, YEAST POWDER, BLUING POWDER, LIQUID BLUING, BOOT BLACKING, SHOE POLISH AND WRITING INK.

In reply, I have to say that there is nothing contained in either of those labels which would render the articles under them subject to the stamp duty.

Very respectfully, JOSEPH J. LEWIS, Commissioner.

JAMES PYLE, esq., No. 350 Washington-st., New-York.

GREAT CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY and receive a WATCH FREE, by engaging in the sale of our "NOVELTY PRIZE STATIONERY PACKET," which contains fine Stationery and one chance in the sale of $650,000 of WATCHES and JEWELRY.

Also, a great variety of Prize Packages splendid Steel Engravings, and Photograph Pictures, every variety, suitable for Albums. Agents wanted in and out of the Army. We give Agents the best chance ever offered to make money, and guarantee satisfaction. $10 invested will yield $30. Catalogue and Circular mailed free, giving full particulars. Address G. S. HASKINS & Co., Stationery and Engraving Warehouse, No. 36 and 38 Beekman-st., New-York.

N. B.—Single Novelty Packet mailed free on receipt of 50 cts.

FOR CALIFORNIA, M. O. ROBERTS'S LINE TO SAN FRANCISCO AND OREGON, VIA PANAMA RAILROAD.

The steamship ILLINOIS, 2,500 tons. On WEDNESDAY, Feb. 3, at noon.

The finest, fastest, and strongest steamship in the California trade will sail as above, from pier foot of Warren-st., North River.

For Freight or passage apply to D. N. CARRINGTON, cor. of Warren and West-sts.

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